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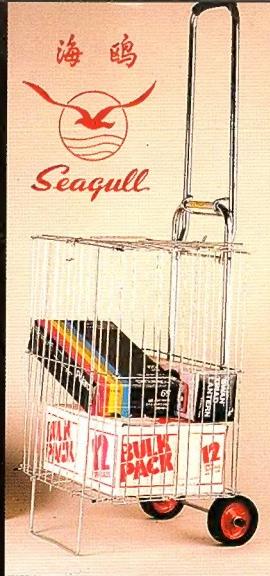
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132

ALONG THE ROUTE OF THE LONG MARCH (I)

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EDITORIAL

Along the Route of the Long March

It was half a century ago, in 1934, that an army, known as the Red Army, started its march at war, leaving its base in the Jinggang Mountains in Jiangxi Province. The army undertook a trek that covered 12,500 kilometres across plains, marshes, rivers and snow-clad mountains.

It is the people, villages and countryside of today along this lengthy route that we offer in this issue and the next. In order fully to cover the subject, we sent our reporters to China. We also used reporters already in China, along with such Hong Kong

photographers as Leong Ka Tai, Alfred Ko and Paul Lau.

The first of our two-part series covers Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangxi, Guizhou and Yunnan. Crossing the countryside, our reporters met Hakka, Yao, Dong, Tibetan and Miao peoples who live in the country and who struggle to retain their ethnic identities. The journey was long and covered a vast area. The stories give only a fleeting glimpse of the region's peoples. We leave further discovery to you.

If you have not already done so, please fill out the small questionnaire with your opinions and mail it to H.K. China Tourism Press. Again, our thanks.

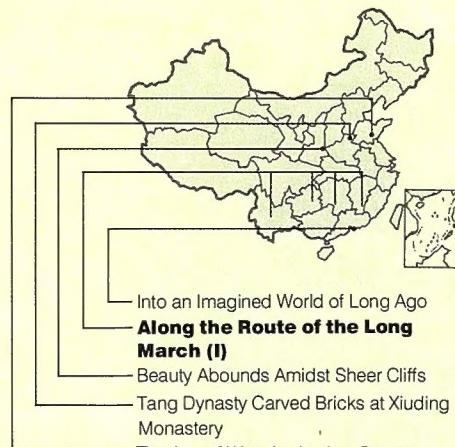


Photo by Guo Jiasheng



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Director: Tchan Fou-il

Vice Director: Chai Ying

Editor-in-Chief: Chai Ying

Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Ma Yiu Chun

Director of Foreign Languages

Editorial Dept.:

Kuang Wen Dong

Deputy Director of Foreign Languages Editorial Dept.:

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Vice General Managers:

Zhang Guorong, Liu Pit Mui

Editorial Dept.: 541 9980

Managing Dept.: 541 1331

Advertising Dept.: 541 1331

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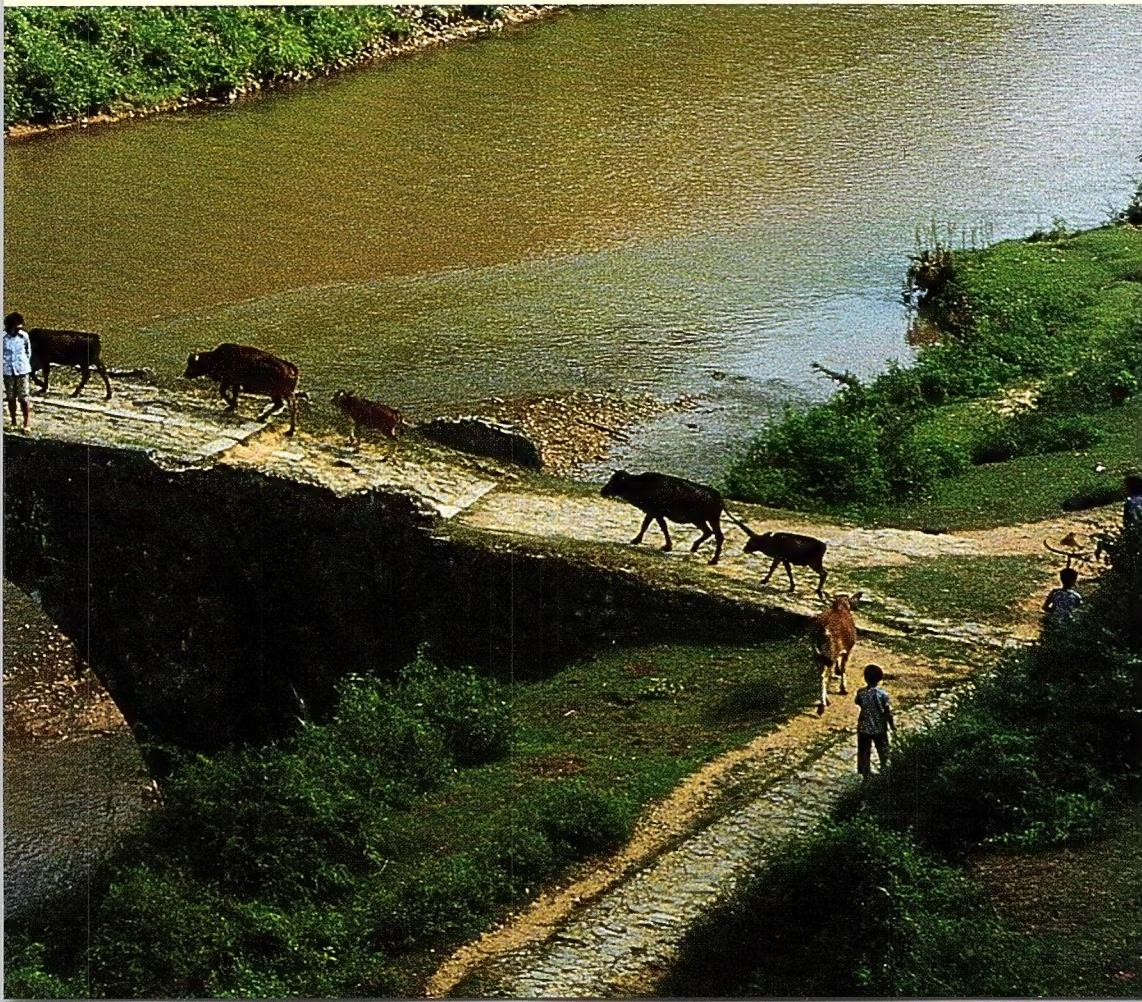
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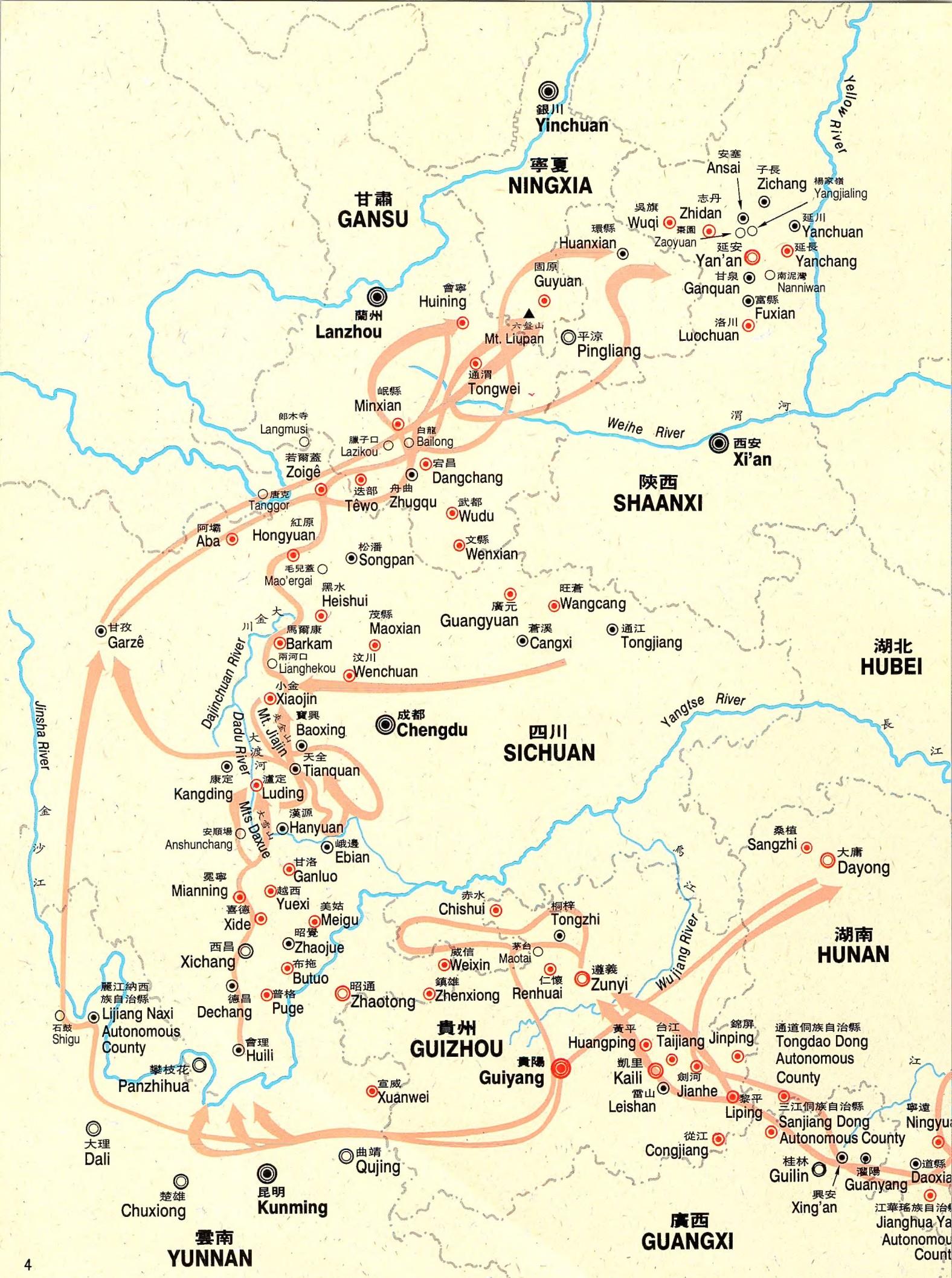
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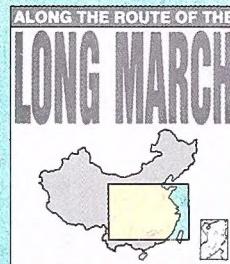
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Over six decades ago in China, workers and farmers formed an armed force which gradually became known as the Red Army. In the early 1930s, they embarked, on foot, on the Long March which played so vital a role in modern Chinese history.

The journey started in Ruijin in Jiangxi Province, crossing five mountain ranges into Guizhou. From Liping and Congjiang in southeastern Guizhou, where the Dong people live, the army travelled northward to Zunyi; they hauled themselves up the Wumeng Mountains on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and into Yunnan's Weixin, then crossed the Jinsha River into Sichuan. There they found their way through the areas of the Yi people up in the Greater and Lesser Liangshan Mountains. They crossed over the raging Dadu River and snowy mountains, past the grasslands of northern Sichuan and up again into the Liupan Range that straddles Gansu and Ningxia. The army, which advanced in several parties, finally joined up, in 1935 and 1936, in Shaanxi Province where they set up their base in Yan'an. The march took the Red Army over more than 12,000 kilometres. They had to overcome natural barriers such as towering mountain ranges, snow-capped peaks, turbulent rivers and marshy grasslands.

Imposing scenery and people with colourful customs and legends still abound along the route of the Long March. In order to bring to our readers the scenery of the region and the lives of today's people, our magazine despatched more than twenty journalists and photographers who, for two years, separately covered different sections of the route. In addition to illuminating photographs and texts, we also provide a map showing the route taken by the Red Army so as to help our readers better orient themselves. The places visited by our reporters are indicated on the map by a ●



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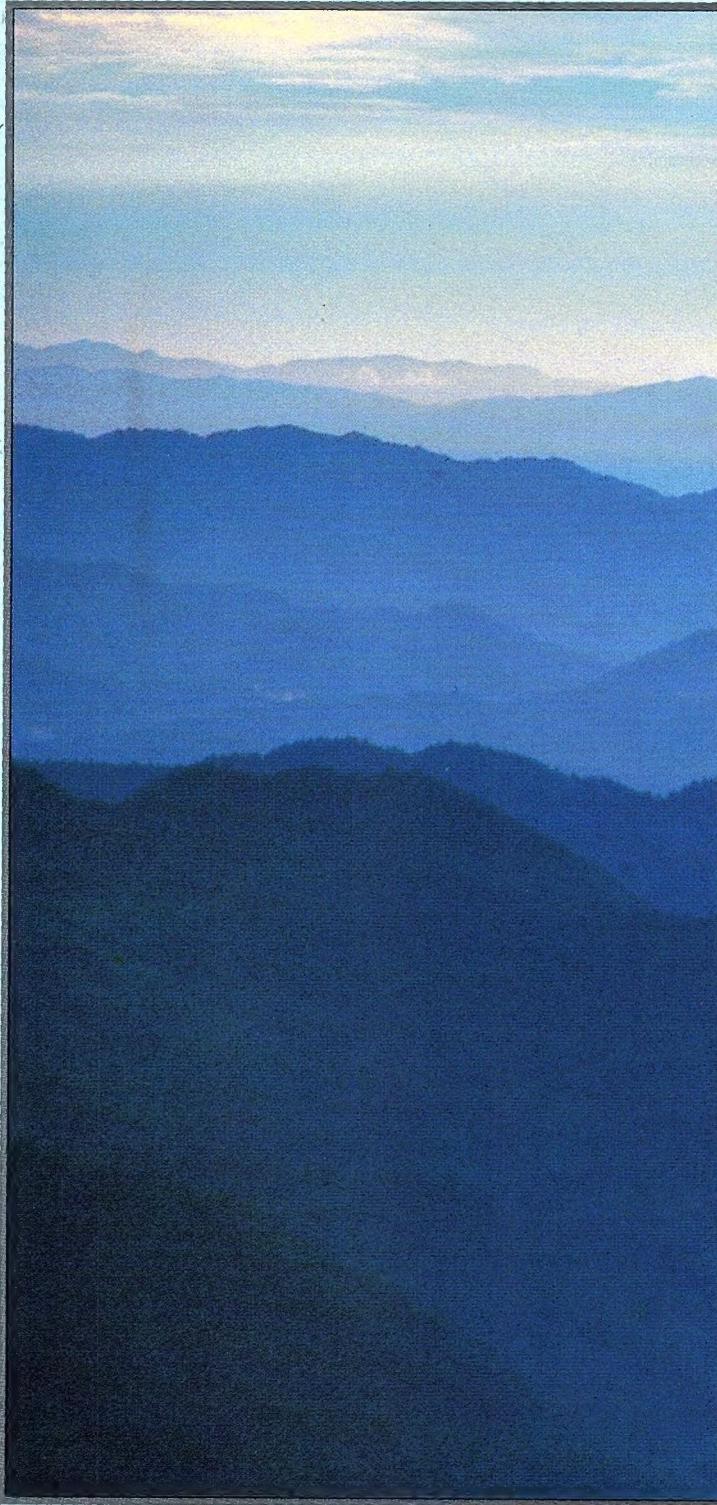
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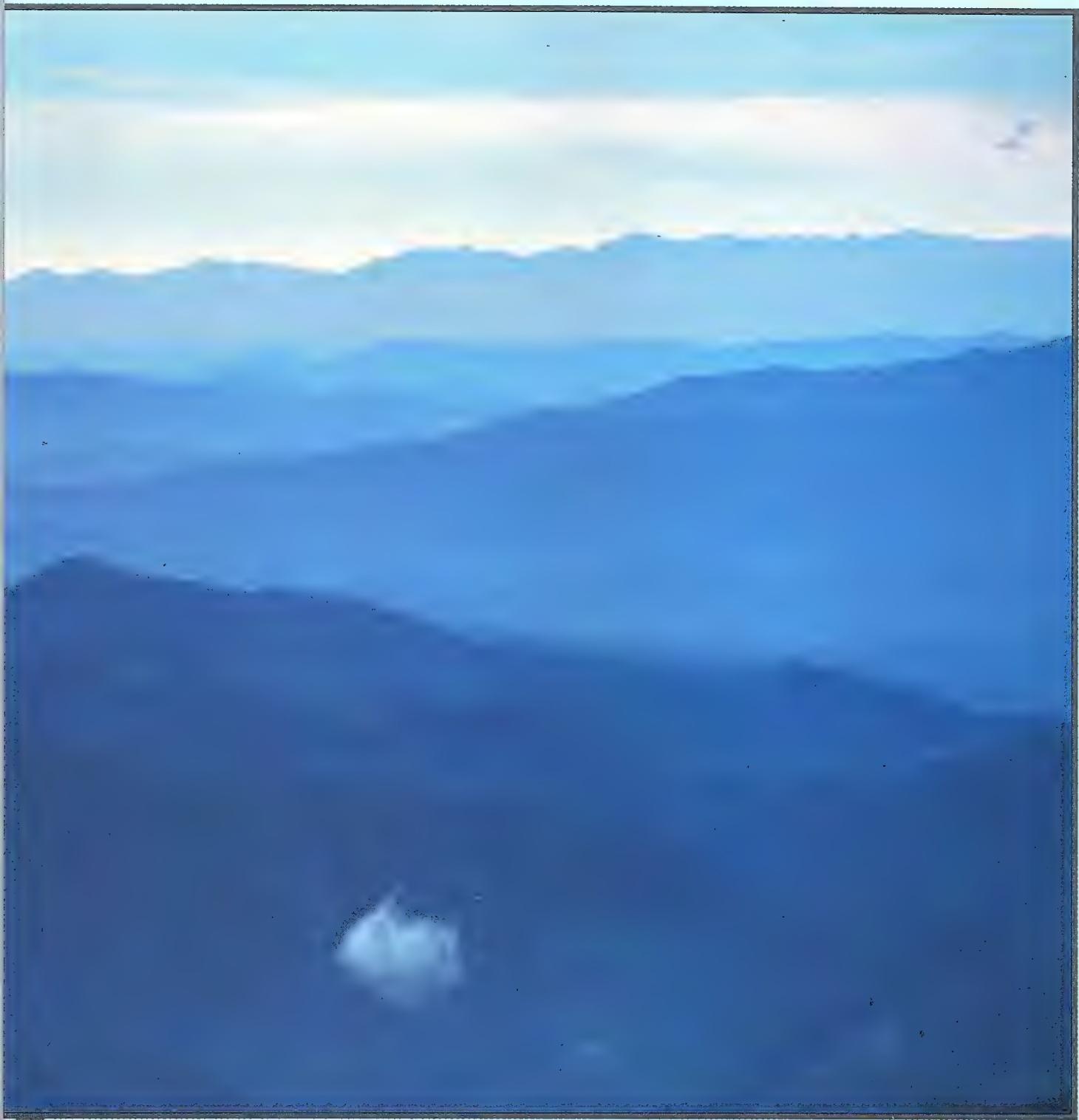


Jiangxi: Jinggang Mountains and Home of the Hakka

Our reporters began their journey in the Jinggang Mountains in Jiangxi Province, which constitutes the middle section of the Luoxiao Mountain Range along the border between Jiangxi and Hunan. Although it snows here, it is not very cold in winter and does not get too hot in summer. In the valleys are terraced rice paddies, and wild game is a common delicacy. People in the area live a self-sufficient life.

Going eastward from the Jinggang Mountains, our reporters visited Xingguo, Shicheng, Ruijin, Huichang, Dayu, Yudu in the south, Anyuan in the deep south and Jishui in the centre of Jiangxi. These places are inhabited by the Hakka people, descendants of immigrants who came ages ago from the north. As one group of the Han people, they have largely preserved the traditional customs, lifestyles and linguistic characteristics of their ancestors.



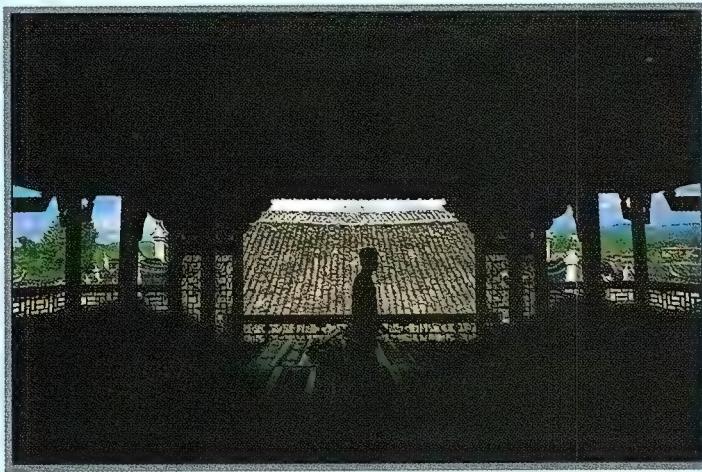


Jinggang Mountains as a Tourist Resort

The Jinggang Mountains are crowned with more than five hundred peaks over a thousand metres above sea level. In times of war, the high peaks, dense woods and dangerous passes formed a natural barrier for the defending forces.

Today, the area has become a tourist site. Here, peaks seem to rise straight and strong from the ground while small pieces of lowland look like wells inlaid in the mountains, hence the name Jinggang, which means "well" and "mountain range" in Chinese. Villages and the surrounding farmland are just like Shangri-las away from modern life. The sea of clouds at Huangyangjie, the waterfall at the Wulong (Five Dragon) Pool, the stalactites in all shapes and formations in the Feilong (Flying Dragon) Cave and huge bushes of blossoming azaleas on Bijia (Penholder) Mountain present one spectacular view after another.

(Photo by Hua Nian)



Shield Dance by Villagers of Yongxin

On the fourth day of the first lunar month (normally in February), the square in front of the temple in Nantang Village, Yongxin County, north of the Jinggang Mountains, is packed with people. The villagers are doing their traditional Shield Dance to celebrate the Spring Festival. The dance combines both martial arts and choreography, and its movements portray two fighting armies in attack and defence. The dance is said to have been handed down by some soldiers of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1851-1864) who later scattered and settled in Yongxin. The music that accompanies the dance is also unique. We found the band produced tunes now resembling a thunder storm, now like resounding music. The dancers danced to the changing tunes.

Nantang Village has a long history. Everybody in the village has the same surname, "Wu". Performers dance the Shield Dance in front of the Wu's Family Temple of Nantang to remember their ancestors.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)



Academy in the Deep and Quiet Mountains

Hidden in the dense forest on the northern slope of the Jinggang Mountains is a small town called Longshi. What takes the visitor by surprise is the Longjiang Academy housed in ancient-style buildings.

Why is there such an elegant institution of education deep in this remote mountainous area? For ages, the Hakka people in the vicinity suffered from the prejudices of the locals down the mountain. In order to give their children a good education so that they would no longer be bullied, the Hakka put their money together and built this academy laid out just like an elite one.

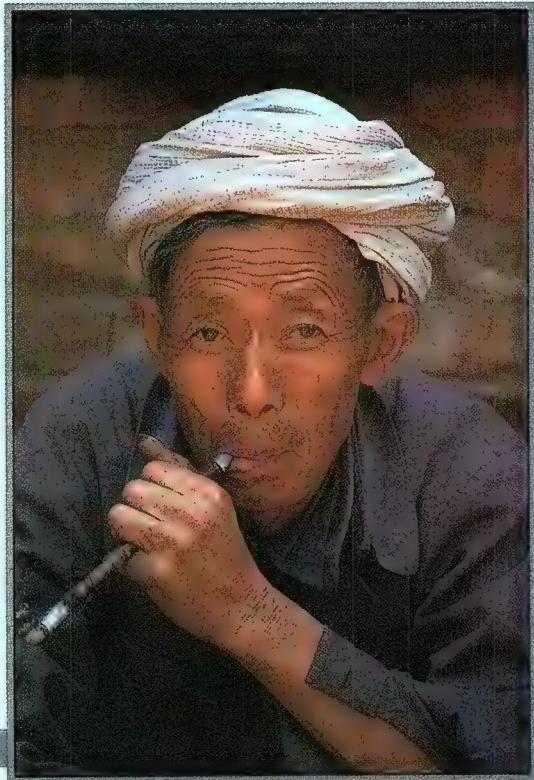
Built in the architectural style of a temple, the tops of the two gables are decorated with five-colour reliefs and murals. Going through the front hall, you come to a two-storey tower with a huge beam and pillars. Standing on top of it, you are rewarded with a view of the summit of the Jinggang Mountains.

(Photo by Hua Nian)

Long-Stemmed Pipe Smokers

In villages in Jiangxi, it is common to see people smoking long-stemmed pipes while people in other southern China villages use water pipes. Why the difference? The answer lies in the fact that the ancestors of the Hakka people were originally from the north, and, till today, the Hakka have kept long-stemmed pipes that traditionally belong to northerners.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)



The Lianjiang Academy in Xingguo

Though Xingguo County is known for producing soldiers and officers, a scholarly atmosphere is equally conspicuous, as proved by the size of the Lianjiang Academy built during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (reign dates 1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty. The school consists of a number of buildings whose carved brackets supporting the eaves, beams, pillars, ceilings and walls are all decorated with exquisite paintings. Many of them are based on ancient stories, but of particular interest are slogans written by Red Army soldiers in the 1930's.

(Photo by Hua Nian)



Snake Lantern of Shicheng

On the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, a Snake Lantern of the Zhuolong Village, Dayou Township in Shicheng County attracts a huge crowd of spectators. Large numbers of individual lanterns are lit, forming a long line like a snake sparkling on the zigzag mountain path. Not only do all the villagers turn out, but people from neighbouring villages also gather here to watch the spectacular scene. On such occasions, young men hold small lanterns and dutifully march along the meandering mountain road towards their destination. Some families specially light lanterns for their men working away from home. In such cases, the people look solemn and seem deep in thought.

It is believed that this activity brings happiness to every family and a bumper harvest every year.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)

Lantern Festival

During the first month of the lunar calendar, thousands of folk artists from fifteen towns and 183 villages of Shicheng County are organized into more than 350 teams to send New Year greetings to local residents. They carry lanterns in the shape of a dragon, lion, horse, carp or flower basket, and they dance to the tune of

melodious folk music. Families welcome these goodwill messengers with joss sticks and crackling firecrackers. They also give them gift money wrapped in red paper packages when they see them off. All the villages are filled with happiness.

Traditionally, religious activities have been rather popular in Shicheng, and when there is some kind of celebration to mark, the locals light up their lanterns and enjoy themselves all night.

(Photo by Zhou Chuanrong)



Red Flower Scarves

The scarves worn by women in Huichang County are unique. Eight flowers made with red woollen thread are pinned on the two-square-foot checked scarves. There are different shades of red flowers for women of different ages: dark red for those above sixty years of age, bright red for those above forty, and pink for those around thirty. Today, few young women wear red flowers as they prefer to have their hair done in beauty shops, or perhaps they find the traditional scarves too provincial!

Nevertheless, whenever there is a market fair, you will find women with red flower scarves moving from one sale stand to another like butterflies darting in the rice paddies.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)

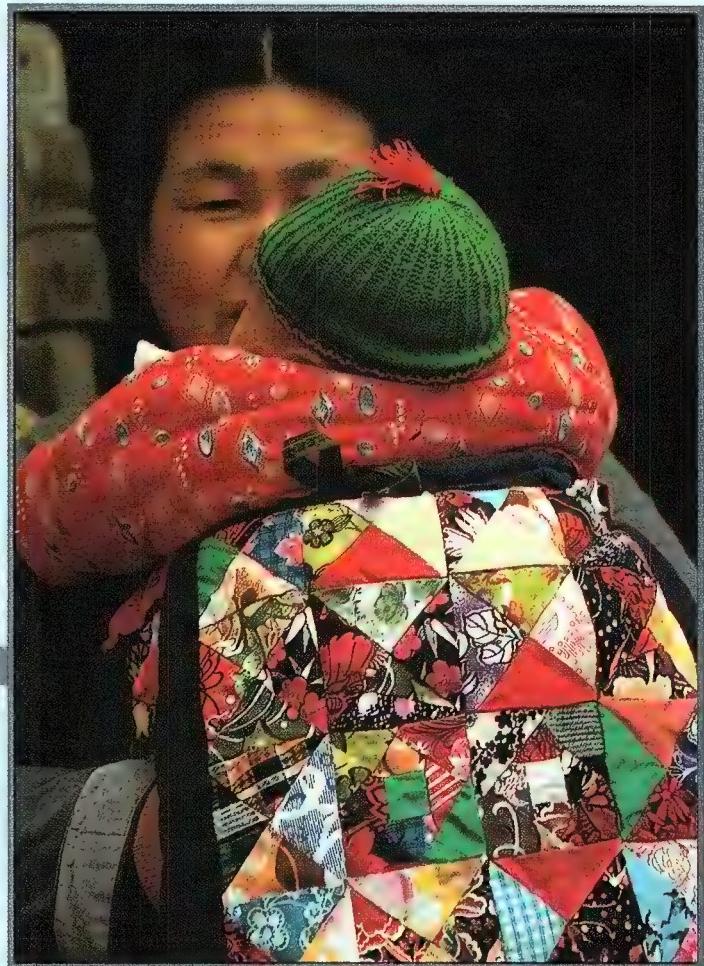




The Suona Ensemble

As we approached the county seat of Yudu, the blaring of the *suona* horn suddenly reached our ears. Following the sound, I found three people — an elderly man, a middle-aged man and a youngster — playing the joyous tune *Celebrating the Bumper Harvest* on their *suonas*. The musicians are, in fact, three generations of one family from Yudu, which is reputed to be the home of the *suona*. On red-letter days or at such occasions as weddings and funerals, *suona* performances add to the atmosphere.

(Photo by Li Qing)



Colourful Aprons for Children

In Yudu County, small children's aprons and shoe soles are delicately made by women whose deft hands stitch together small patches of colourful cloth. In recent years, however, Nike-type walking shoes have become so popular that traditional cloth shoes have been neglected.

One result is that local women now put all their effort into making children's aprons. Often dozens or even up to a hundred tiny pieces of cloth in all colours and patterns are joined together to make one apron.

In fact, such aprons are popular not only in Yudu but in many other places in southern Jiangxi as well. (Photo by Guo Jiasheng)



Decorated Packages in Ruijin

Ruijin is situated in southeastern Jiangxi at the west foot of the Wuyi Mountains which surround it. It was here that the Long March started, and even today bullet holes can still be seen in some of the houses.

Here, the village girls tie their long hair into two plaits hanging down below their shoulders. Because Ruijin people regard red as an auspicious colour, they liberally decorate their goods and packages with small pieces of red paper stuck onto what they are carrying, whether it be a purchase for their own use or a gift for a friend.

(Photo by Li Qing)



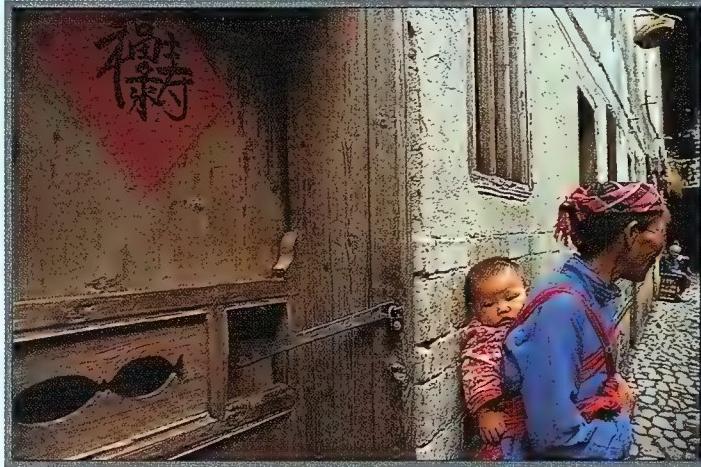


A Bird's-Eye View of Rural Cottages

Looking down from a plane at the vast land of Jiangxi in deep autumn, you find the golden rice fields dotted with clusters of rural houses.

In both central and southern parts of Jiangxi, houses of varied architectural styles stand next to each other. There is one thing they do have in common, however: the walls with upturned eaves that stand on the gables on both sides of the roof. The walls, colourfully painted with images from folk stories or with beautiful patterns, also serve as fire-prevention partitions. Such walls on ancestral temple buildings are much higher and their eaves more extended and more tilted up. Inside these temples, traces of history can still be seen.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)



Fortified Houses

Anyuan is one of the counties where the Hakka people live in great numbers. Spread over the mountains are a kind of ancient style of residential structure — the "fortified" houses.

The outer wall on the four sides of the fort-like structure is built with rammed earth. Protruding from the four corners are blockhouses with shooting holes. Once the gate is shut, the house becomes a fortification easy to defend from within but difficult to attack from outside. Inside these structures, large rooms circle small ones with the outer rooms serving as bedrooms and the inner rooms as kitchens, pigsties, chicken houses and storage areas. Right in the centre are clan temples for remembering ancestors and for holding public meetings.

As a branch of the Han Chinese originally from the Central Plains in northern China, the ancestors of the Hakka people were mostly engaged in developing wasteland upon their arrival in Jiangxi. The Hakka people lived in a geographically unfriendly land and their life has been hard. The only way to guarantee survival was to rely on the collective. Consequently, they have maintained the lifestyle of the whole clan living together, and that has helped preserve their unique architecture.

Built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the Dongsheng fortified house in Zhengang is eighty metres long and three storeys high with the blockhouses one storey higher. The outer wall is 1.3 metres thick. Altogether, the structure consists of over 360 rooms and is home to more than 250 people. All the residents are named Chen as they are descendants of the same ancestor.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)

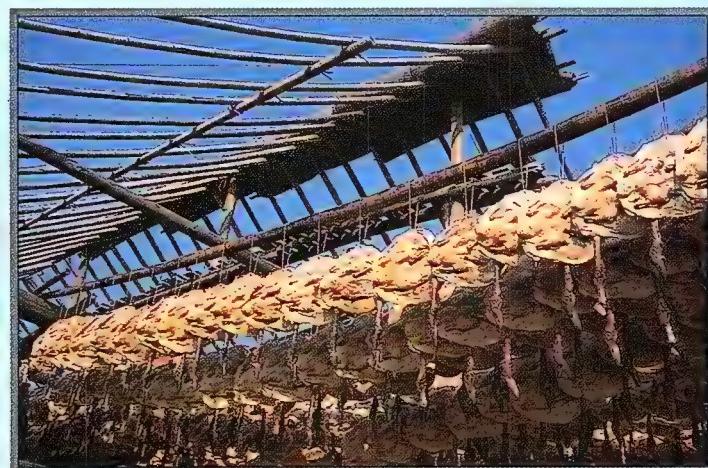




Super-Long Dragon

Immediately after the Lantern Festival (the fifteenth day of the first lunar month), hundreds of people from Pangu Village in Jishui County begin to deliver wishes for good fortune to families of farmers while holding a super-long dragon with over three hundred joints, each of which is supported by a sturdy man. As this symbol of good fortune travels from village to village, the farmers are always more than glad to see its arrival at their doorstep. Since it is so long, the dragon dance can only be performed in a large open area. Then one can really feel the momentum of the dancing dragon.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng)



Enticing Salted Duck

Meiling in Dayu County is the exit into Guangdong from Jiangxi. In Dayu, we saw the renowned export product, salted duck of Nan'an (Nan'an being both the old name for Dayu County and the present name of the town serving as the county seat today), which has a history of well over 130 years. At Liuwu Village in Nan'an Town, every household makes salted duck with thin skin and tender meat. It is indeed very delicious. The local people told me that the Spring Festival is the best time to buy the salted ducks of Nan'an because when you take the duck home along the ancient road across the Meiguan Pass at Meiling, the northerly breeze blowing over it improves the aroma of the duck.

Nan'an is not far from the ancient road across the Meiguan Pass. Visitors may take the road once travelled by ancient people into Guangdong and climb the Meiguan Peak at Meiling. Then you can go into Guangdong Province and visit Zhujixiang.

(Photo by Guo Jiasheng) C

Translated by Huang Youyi



Hunan and Guangxi: Precipitous Mountains and Yao and Dong Villages

After leaving Dayu County in Jiangxi Province, our reporters ascended Mount Jiuyi in the border area of Hunan, Guangxi and Guangdong. Coming down the mountain, they went westward to Jianghua Yao Autonomous County in southern Hunan and then northward to Dayong and climbed Mount Tianzi. They returned for a brief stay in Tongdao Dong Autonomous County in the southern tip of Hunan Province bordering on Guangxi and Guizhou. From there, they also took a trip to Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County in the northern part of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

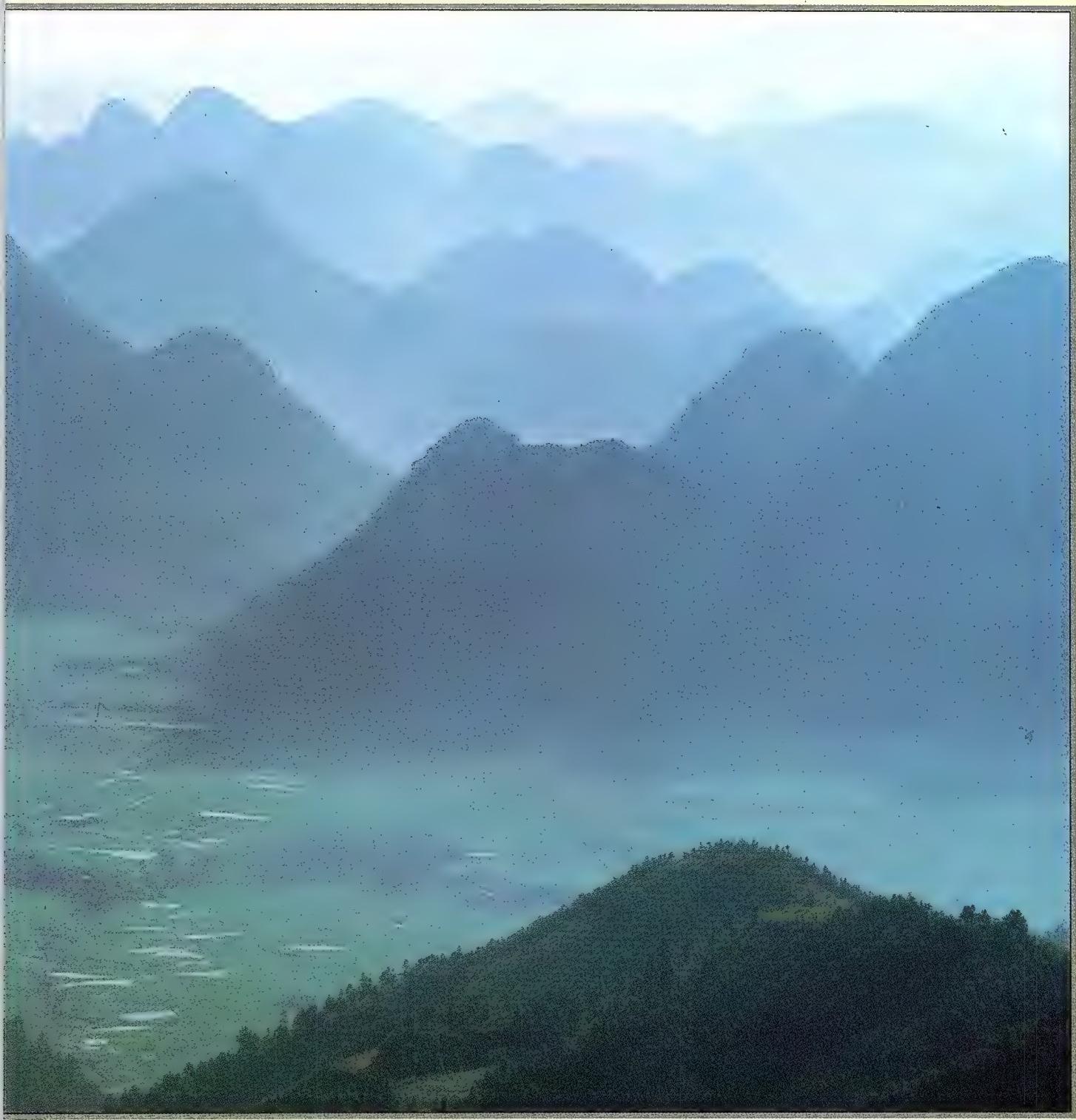
Mount Jiuyi stretches for 100 kilometres in length and breadth, and its pinnacle, Sanfenshi, rises 1,822 metres above sea level. The mountain is part of five mountain chains that extend for over 1,000 kilometres across southern Hunan and Jiangxi and northern Guangdong and Guangxi. Almost all the peaks are granite and the mountain paths are dangerous and difficult to walk. Fortunately, between the ridges are mountain passes, usually less than 500 metres above sea level and serving as key channels of north-south transportation.

The Wuling Mountains in northwestern Hunan are the highest among all the mountains in the province with unusually precipitous peaks rarely seen in other places. The grotesque yet graceful peaks resemble scroll upon scroll of bold stroke Chinese scenery painting and, while beautiful to look at, they make walking in this area difficult indeed. Mount Tianzi in Wulingyuan, within the boundaries of Sangzhi County, is the most graceful peak along the Wuling Mountains.

Hunan Province is home to around 270,000 Yao people, fifty-one per cent living in Jianghua Yao Autonomous County. They are known for their five-colour clothing; they honour their legendary ancestor, King Panwang.

Sanjiang County is surrounded by mountains and hills. The local Dong people, who live here in large numbers, observe some unusual customs. The third day of the third lunar month, usually falling in April, is their foremost traditional holiday. As one of the holiday activities, young men gather in the fields to scramble for colourfully decorated iron rings launched by rockets.

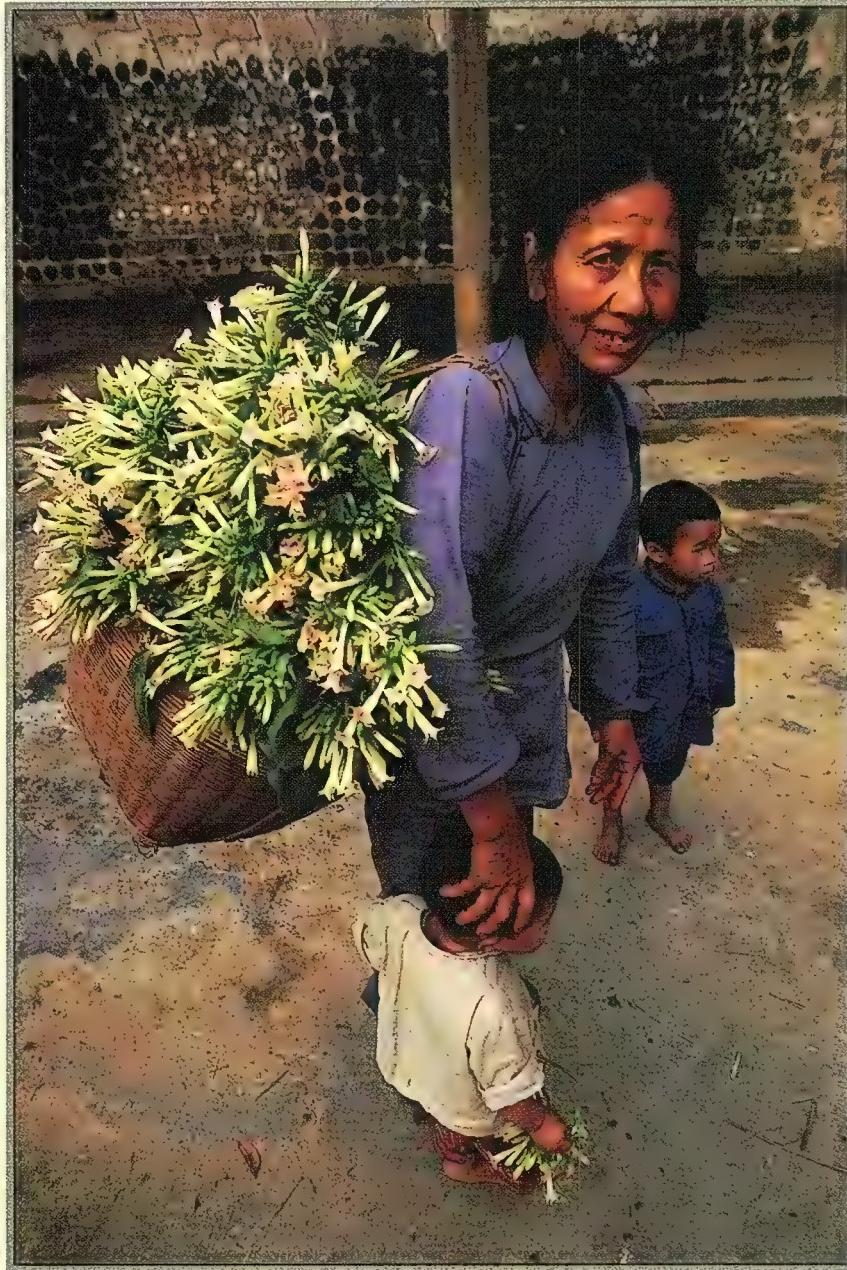




Hunan: Along the Mountain Paths

The Luguan Village in Ningyuan County, Hunan Province, was the starting point of our ascent of Sanfenshi, the highest peak of Mount Jiuyi. The twisting mountain path led us from the village directly to the peak. From time to time as we climbed we looked at the undulating mountains stretching in front of us in the morning glow. Though cars and buses are compelled to make turn after turn along the meandering road, small mountain paths directly link the villages at the foot of the mountain. When we saw villagers walking along these mountain paths, we realized that the paths were short-cuts linking the villages.

(Photo by Lam Kin Fai)



Opera Stage

As Ningyuan is a remote place far from anywhere, we were surprised to see an opera stage. Dating back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the stage stands in a small village inhabited by a clan of Wangs.

Hunan opera troupes come to perform only at festival and holiday times. We came on an ordinary day, but still found some activity. Village children were merrily playing and jumping on the stage and even humming some tunes from Hunan opera until their parents came back from the fields to fetch them home for supper.

(Photo by Lam Kin Fai)

Home-Made Toys

In the absence of machine-made toys, people from Ningyuan County make use of local materials. They fell trees, shape them and polish them into rifles for their sons. With wooden rifles on their backs, the boys are imbued with pride and a sense of bravery.

(Photo by Lam Kin Fai)





Headdress of the Yao People

We arrived at Jianghua Yao Autonomous County on the third day of the third lunar month. Girls of the Yao ethnic group were wearing holiday costumes, complete with elaborate headdress. First, beeswax is used as a conditioner to curl the long hair into the desired shape, then eight to ten sharpened and polished bamboo slips are used to keep the hair in that style. Finally, a patterned scarf is placed on the hair. The two bamboo slips at the back of the head can be bent up to allow the head to touch the pillow when the wearer is sleeping.

We learned that Yao girls begin to wear such a headdress at the age of fourteen or fifteen to indicate their maturity. Like butterflies, they are now ready to fly freely and look for their men. Young men, on the other hand, can ask for the hand of a girl with such a headdress. For this reason, pre-pubescent girls and married women who have become mothers cannot wear this headdress, although married women who have not yet given birth may do so. This tradition, however, is losing popularity, perhaps because people want to avoid unnecessary complications.

(Photo by Gao Dayang)



Grotesque Peaks of Mount Tianzi

In the Wulingyuan scenic areas in northwestern Hunan, Mount Tianzi presents a most impressive mountain scene. Standing on a platform at the top of the mountain and looking at the huge stone pillars shooting out of the valley, you are rewarded with an enchanting sight. However, to see the most magnificent and unique view, you must climb to the edge of very dangerous cliffs. One of the natural viewing stands, commonly referred to as "tongue rock", is actually an overhanging stone slab sticking out of the cliffs. To stand on such a rock, one cannot help sticking out his tongue in sheer astonishment.

Over half a century ago, this was the main operating zone of a branch of the Red Army commanded by He Long, who was a native of Sangzhi County in the Wuling area. Today, we can see a bronze statue of the commander erected atop Mount Tianzi.

(Photo by Hua Nian)

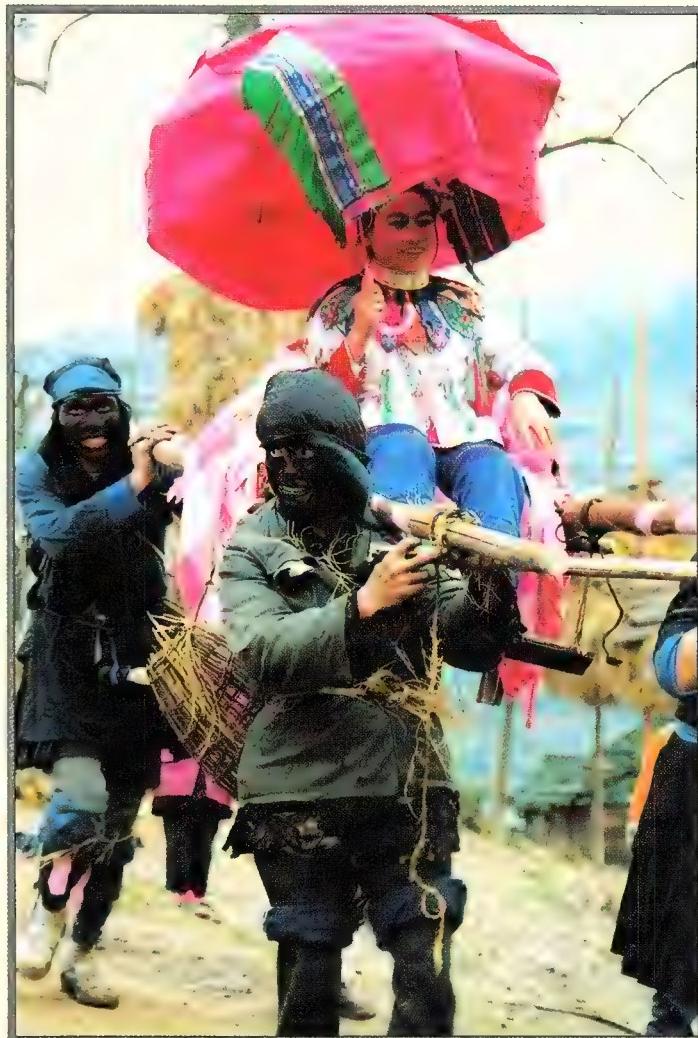


Folk Customs of the Dong People

Dong women from Sanjiang in Guangxi, walking very carefully, carry what seem to be bamboo shoots, but which are, in fact, bundled chicken eggs. The paths in the mountain are full of bumps and holes. For safety's sake, the Dongs carry eggs to market by tying them into strings with straw.

Among other unusual customs, the people of this minority ethnic group use straw hats as pot lids, and the girls of the tribe smoke tobacco from water pipes.

(Photo by Qin Fang)



Spring Festival Visits

During the Spring Festival (usually in February), four strong men run along a village road in Sanjiang County. They carry a bamboo chair on which sits an "official". The faces of the bearers are painted in dark colours to frighten away evil spirits.

This act marks the height of the collective visits made by the Dong to neighbouring villages during the festival. When the visitor crosses the singing ground outside the village, the procession walks around the bell tower three times. Meanwhile, the villagers play *lusheng* pipes to greet him. Once inside the village, the "official" is stopped by village girls who sing for him. For every song they sing, he has to hand out money until it is all gone. Then the girls offer food to the visitor. After that, all the villagers play their *lusheng* pipes and light firecrackers to see their guest off at the entrance to the village. ☈

(Photo by Huang Yaling)



Guizhou: A Glimpse of the Miao and Dong Peoples

Having left the Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County in Guangxi, the reporters entered Congjiang County in southeastern Guizhou. As they headed westward, they visited several counties and towns along the way.

The saying that "there is no flat land within three square *li*" vividly describes Guizhou's topography. The Miaoling Mountains, lying across the central and southern parts of the province, separate the Changjiang River Valley from the Pearl River Valley. In this area, there are more than 900 rivers, making the topography even more complicated. The Miaoling Mountains undulate southward through places like Congjiang, Liping, Jinping, Jianhe, Taijiang, Kaili and Huangping, finally joining the Wuling Mountains.

Their trip into the Miaoling Mountains was very difficult. The distance between Huangping and Zunyi is actually short, but, thanks to all the mountains, it took a long time. First, they went to Guiyang by coach. There they got off, and, crossing one ridge after another, finally got to the Wujiang River. They ferried across and headed for Zunyi. Wujiang, the largest river in this province, is flanked by many steep precipices. Its water surges through narrow valleys, forming many dangerous shoals. No wonder, people there say that you may travel all over the world smoothly, but you will find the Wujiang River an impasse.

Zunyi, centre of communications in northern Guizhou, stands north of the Wujiang River, and the Xiangjiang River threads its way past this city. After Zunyi, they went, via Renhuai County, to Chishui County, named after the nearby Chishui River. Then they entered Weixin County in Yunnan. Flowing across the north of Guizhou, the Chishui is a river full of rapids and shoals. Chishui in Chinese means "red water", and it is so named because its water turns muddy and red in the spring and winter when mountain floods rush down, churning up large quantities of red earth.

The Miao and Dong people live in the southeastern part of Guizhou. The Miao mostly live in hamlets at the foot of the mountains. They build houses on stilts, and members of the same clan usually live together in compact communities. The Dong people usually build their homes near rivers at the foot of mountains. What is noticeable about their villages are the drum towers.

Both the Miao and Dong peoples are fond of glutinous rice, which is a must when entertaining guests.

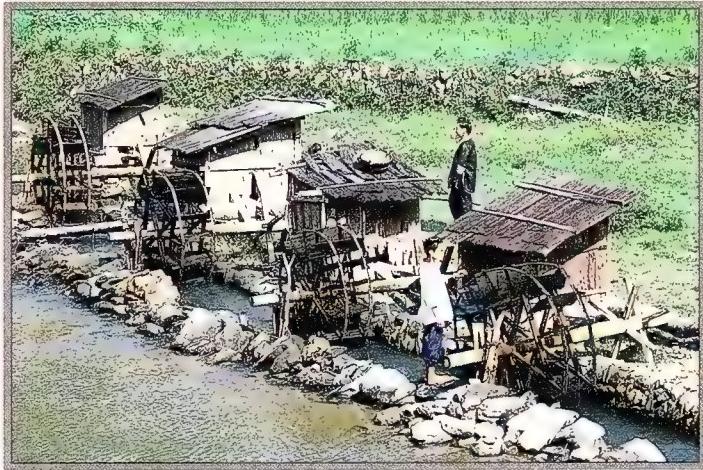




Music of the *Lusheng*

While still some distance away from a Dong village in Congjiang, we could hear, coming from the village, melodious tunes being played on a *lusheng*, a reed pipe wind instrument. When we arrived, we saw a group of children playing *lushengs* and dancing, their faces wreathed in smiles. What lovely children, and how lucky they were to be growing up with the beautiful music of the *lusheng*.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)



"Automatic" Husking Machines

Along the Congjiang River, we often saw small waterwheels. I was told that they are used to generate power to operate rice husking machines, which you can find in every household.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)

Drum Towers in Dong Villages

The drum tower is a unique structure in the Dong villages and is the symbol of the Dong community. Each Dong village has two drum towers, one, the "male tower" and the other, the "female tower".

Legend has it that once upon a time, the ringleader of a gang took a fancy to a Dong girl. He wrote a letter to the head of the hamlet demanding the girl and some of the village property. The headman, advised by the girl, worked out a plan. He invited the ringleader to the hamlet to get what he had demanded. The gangsters arrived to find the hamlet brightly lit. As they got to the fish pond, there suddenly came the thunder of battle drums from all directions. Shocked and thinking that they were surrounded, the thugs dashed into the darkness where they were ambushed. In reality, it was the clever girl who had led many other girls tapping water in barrels with their palms, producing a drum sound to fool the gang. Later on, each Dong village built two drum towers. At critical times, guards on the towers would beat the drums to warn the villagers below.

Today, drum towers have become a place for social gatherings, and in the evenings young people come for dates, singing and fun.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)





A Unique Lunch Box

People in Liping frequently tie small baskets around their belts or to one end of their shoulder-poles. There is usually glutinous rice and a few slices of salted fish or meat in the basket, a simple but unique lunch box and a convenient way to carry food. Whether the people of Liping go up into the mountains to gather firewood, go to fairs, the fields or even to far away places, it is no wonder that they take these handy little baskets with them.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)





Houses on Stilts

Houses on stilts can be seen everywhere in Liping County's Miao communities. The central rooms serve as common room for the whole family as well as a kind of workshop where bamboo dustbins and baskets are made for sale at country fairs.

Since winter is not cold in this area, these central rooms have large openings on each side, which not only help ventilate the house but which also provide good views.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)

Changeable Weather in Kaili

Weather in Guizhou is unpredictable. One day, when we were in Kaili, there was bright sunlight, but a moment later it turned dark and the rain soon poured down. While I hurried to find a place to get out of the rain, the local fairgoers were well prepared for the changeable weather. They unhurriedly produced plastic sheets, completely covering themselves and, in some cases, their small children as well.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)



An Old Carver and His Stones

This old man, with his pair of spectacles, bends over an inscription that he has carved. All his life, he has collected stones and engraved them. He lives in Jinping in a stone house, and he even sleeps on a stone bed. With his chisel and hammer, he earns his living carving inscriptions for gravestones.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)

Bamboo Hats with a Strange Design

At many country fairs in Jianhe we saw an unusual style of bamboo hat, and everybody, old and young, wore one. It could be used, we were told, to keep off both rain and sunlight. When a person squatted down to examine some articles spread on the ground, we had a clear picture of the simple but elegant design on his hat.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)





Miao Women's Silver Headwear

There is a large Miao village in Taijiang in southeastern Guizhou, and, while we were there, we were able to observe a local festival. Thousands of Miao women were dancing in a circle, each beautifully dressed in a traditional Miao costume. Girls, wearing fantastic silver headpieces, formed the inner circle. The outer circle, made up of women in blue tunics and turbans, were the mothers who had come to look after their carefully decorated daughters. At festivals, the Miao girls put on their best clothes and the silver headwear which have been handed down from generation to generation. No wonder the headwear had an antique appearance.

(Photo by Long Zirong)

Verandah on the Stilted Houses

When we climbed up to a Miao house on stilts in Kaili, we found a wide, well ventilated verandah where strings of maize were hanging. Because of the good ventilation, food can be kept there for a long time. Since the verandah is roomy, it is also a good playground for the children.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)





Colourfully Dressed Miao Men

At festivals, the Miao people in southeastern Guizhou celebrate by singing and dancing, accompanied by the sound of the *lusheng*. The Miao men, we noticed, were as colourfully attired as the women. Bird feathers adorned the border of their skirts. They danced with ease, the feathers fluttering like birds.

This dance is based on a local legend which tells how a young Miao man fought a pheasant-demon for three days and nights to rescue a Miao girl from the demon. The feathers which adorn the skirts of these dancers symbolize the indomitable spirit of the young man as he rode on mist and clouds in his bitter struggle against the pheasant-demon.

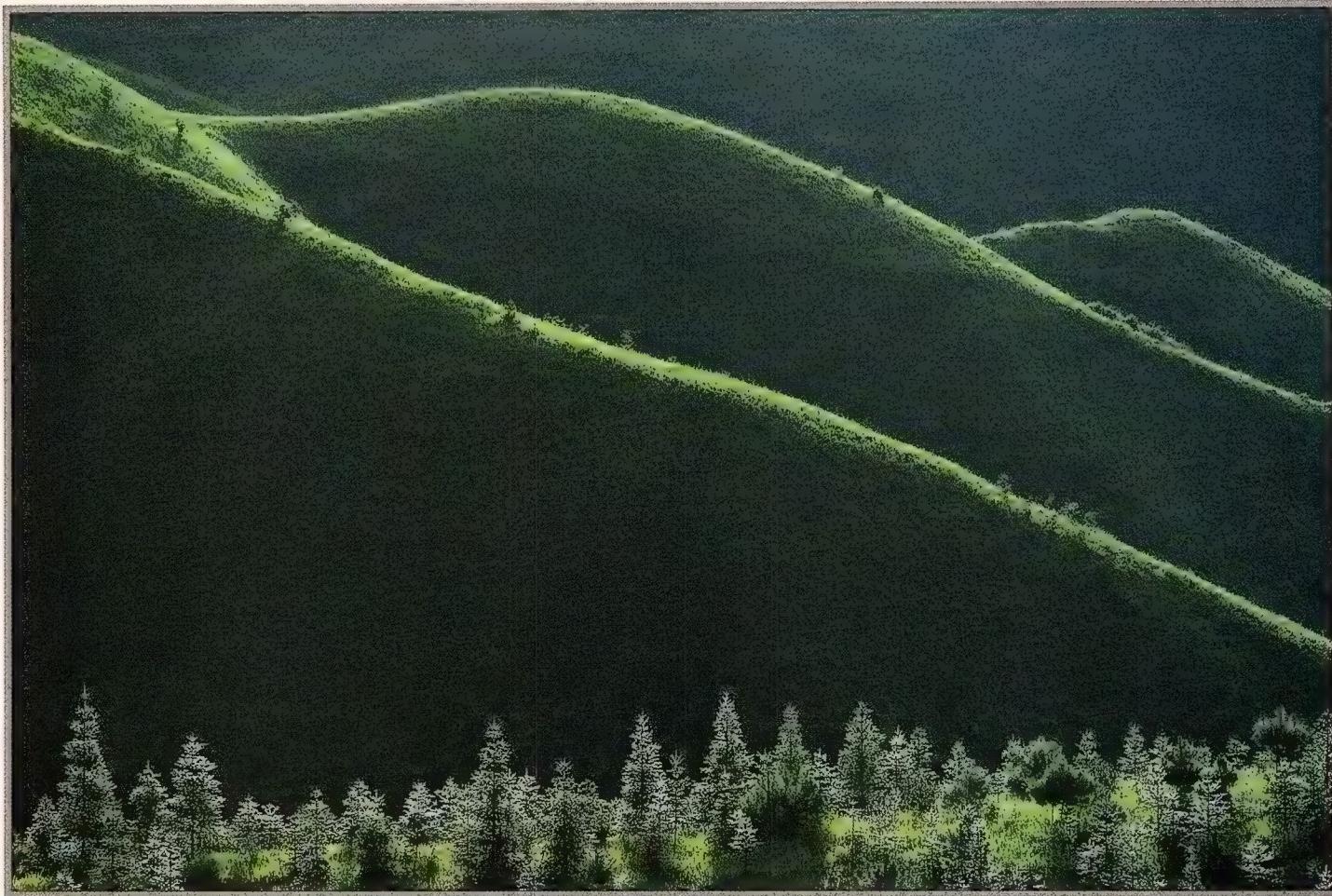
(Photo by He Huaibo)

Brisk Business at Dog Fairs

In the city, the dog is a favourite pet. However, in the countryside, dogs are so important that people find it difficult to live without them. Apart from guard duty, they help their masters hunt up in the mountains and they help shepherds look after the sheep. Therefore, in recent years, dog fairs have mushroomed in the countryside. This photo shows a dog fair in Tang'an Town of Huangping County. The dogs are tied together, waiting to be chosen.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)





First Sight of the Han People in Zunyi

Heading for Zunyi in the north, we first had to cross the Wujiang River. Flanked by sheer cliffs the river channel is so narrow that the water rushes on with a roar. In the past, crossing the river by ferry could be life threatening, but today, there is a bridge over the water.

Shortly after crossing the bridge, we reached Zunyi, an ancient town in northern Guizhou. It was there, in a playground, that we had our first sight of Han people in a long time. During our journey in Guizhou, all the people we met were ethnic minorities as Guizhou is basically a province of minority nationalities. However, Zunyi is a compact community of the Han people.

It was the site where, in mid-February 1935, the Red Army convened an important military conference — the Zunyi Conference — to decide the guiding principles for its next step in the Long March.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)



Weather on the Plateau

There are four famous plateaus in China: the Loess Plateau, Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Inner Mongolian Plateau and Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Though very high in altitude, the Qinghai-Tibet and Inner Mongolian Plateaus are quite flat, whereas the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, also high in altitude, has a great number of grotesque mountains. There, the weather is cold and changeable. However, weather in the Miaoling Mountains, which are on the edge of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, is rather mild. When we were there, spring has just arrived, yet the land was already green.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)

Guiyang Streets in Early Morning

Early in the morning, villagers cart pork into the still empty streets of the city of Guiyang. The pork, very fresh as the pigs have just been slaughtered, fetches a hefty sum. Then the farmers buy some daily necessities for home.

About 1,250 metres above sea level, Guiyang, situated on the eastern slope of the plateau, has been a place of strategic importance since ancient days. A border town's mysterious air, the antique touch of an old city and modern prosperity are well merged here to create an attractive community.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)



Farmers' Fertilizer

Early in the morning, the dock of the county seat of Chishui was busy with boats, coming and going, transporting manure. Though there is a chemical fertilizer factory, farmers in the country are not too keen on such fertilizer. So they row their boats to the county seat to collect manure to use for farming, giving a cold shoulder to the chemical fertilizer factory.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)



Difficult to Shake Hands

Our coach laboured on, crossing one ridge after another, from Zunyi to Renhuai. At last, we reached a ridge, still ten kilometres away from the county seat of Renhuai. While we were there, we smelled the strong fragrance of the famous Maotai liquor.

It came from the other side of the ravine, which was only about a hundred metres wide, but our coach would have to cover seven or eight kilometres to get there. Our coach turned right and then left along a zigzag road down to the bottom of the ravine, and then it climbed up again. The mountains pose a big problem for communications in Guizhou. No wonder people say, "We may hear each other across a valley, but it takes half a day to meet and shake hands."

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)



The Assistant Sales Manager

At a country fair by the Chishui River pedlars hawk their wares. One fruit pedlar brought with him a rhesus monkey to be his "assistant sales manager". It leapt up and down, attracting a lot of attention. Rhesus monkeys are a speciality of Guizhou, and they do not fear men. The monkeys' liveliness and daintiness were very endearing.

(Photo by Zeng Xianyang)

Lesser Hua Miao's Batik

Along the upper reaches of the Chishui River, in the northwest, live the Lesser Hua Miao people, a branch of the Miao. In character, they are less constrained and bolder than the Miao people from other areas. Even their turbans are larger and more colourful. The Miao women usually dye cloth in large barrels, but women of the Lesser Hua Miao prefer to use small ones so that they can more easily control the shade.

The word "batik" means wax painting and dyeing. This technique dates back more than 1,000 years, and women of various ethnic groups like the Miao, Bouyei and Gelao all know how to do it. The fabric is patterned by melting beeswax, drawing designs on a piece of white cloth with the melted wax, and then dying the unwaxed portion of the cloth to the desired shade.

(Photo by Wang Changchun)



White Headsquares of the Yi Women

The Yi people live in the border area of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan Provinces. Though small in number, they are widely scattered through the region. Their customs are quite different from the Yi people in the Liangshan area. For example, the women's clothing is elaborately embroidered. Generally speaking, ethnic women are fond of colourful head-squares, but these women prefer white ones which, I believe, better show off their costumes.

(Photo by Wang Changchun) G
Translated by Wang Mingjie

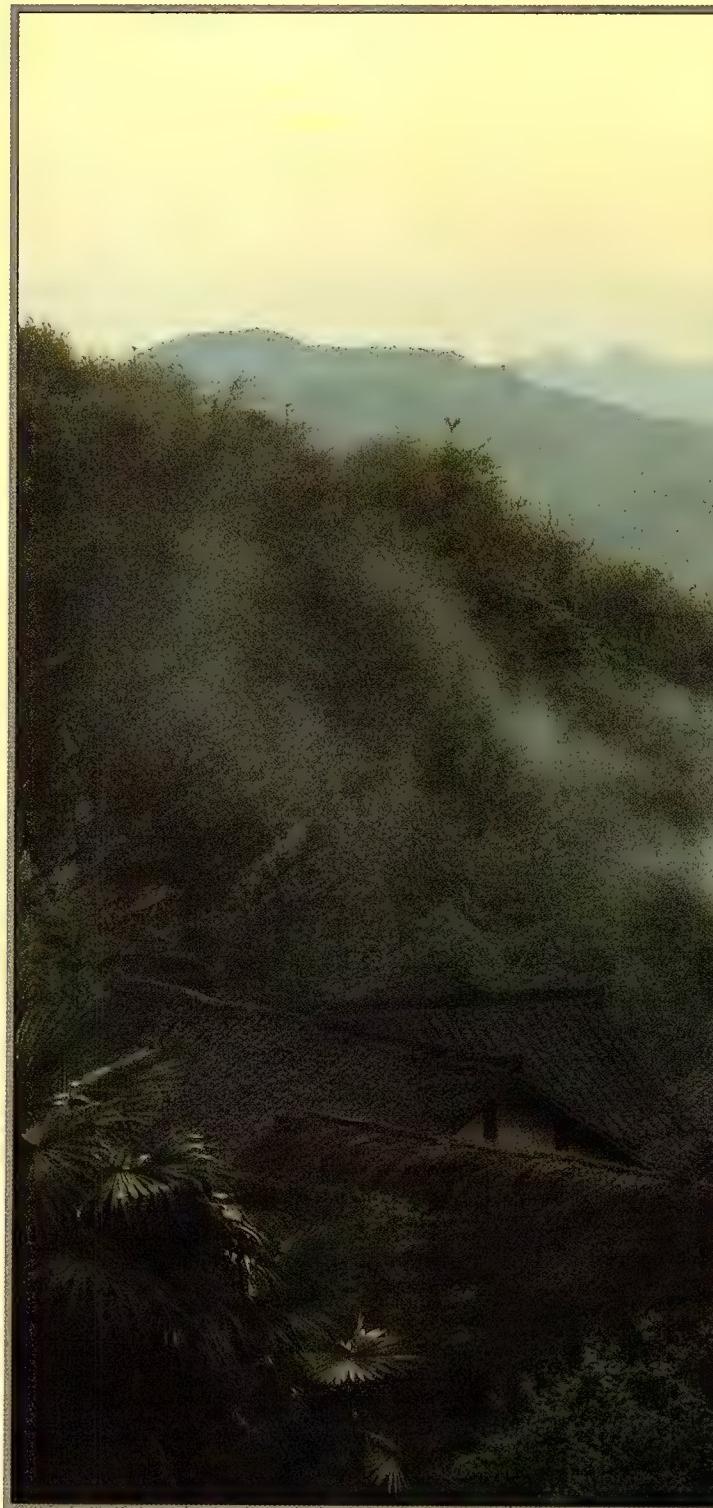


Yunnan: Miao Villages in the Wumeng Mountains

After crossing the Chishui River at Chishui County in Guizhou Province, we arrived at Weixin County in the Wumeng Mountains area, northeastern Yunnan Province. From Weixin, we went on to Zhaotong City and Zhenxiong and Xuanwei Counties.

The Wumeng Mountain Range, an extension of the plateau in eastern Yunnan, runs southwestward from the northeastern part of the province. Its precipitous mountains, each one linked to another, seem to stretch endlessly into the distance. Among them are flat basins where cities and towns can be found, one of which is Weixin, located in a basin surrounded by nine mountains.

Northeastern Yunnan is the home of the Miao, Yi, Hui and other ethnic groups, the largest being the Miaoos. Most Miaoos have come from northwestern Guizhou and differ from the local people in their costumes and habits. In Weixin, young Miao women go to work with a big bamboo basket on their back. At Zhaotong, red peppers hanging everywhere are most eye-catching, and at Xuanwei, the visitor's attention shifts to the locally produced ham.

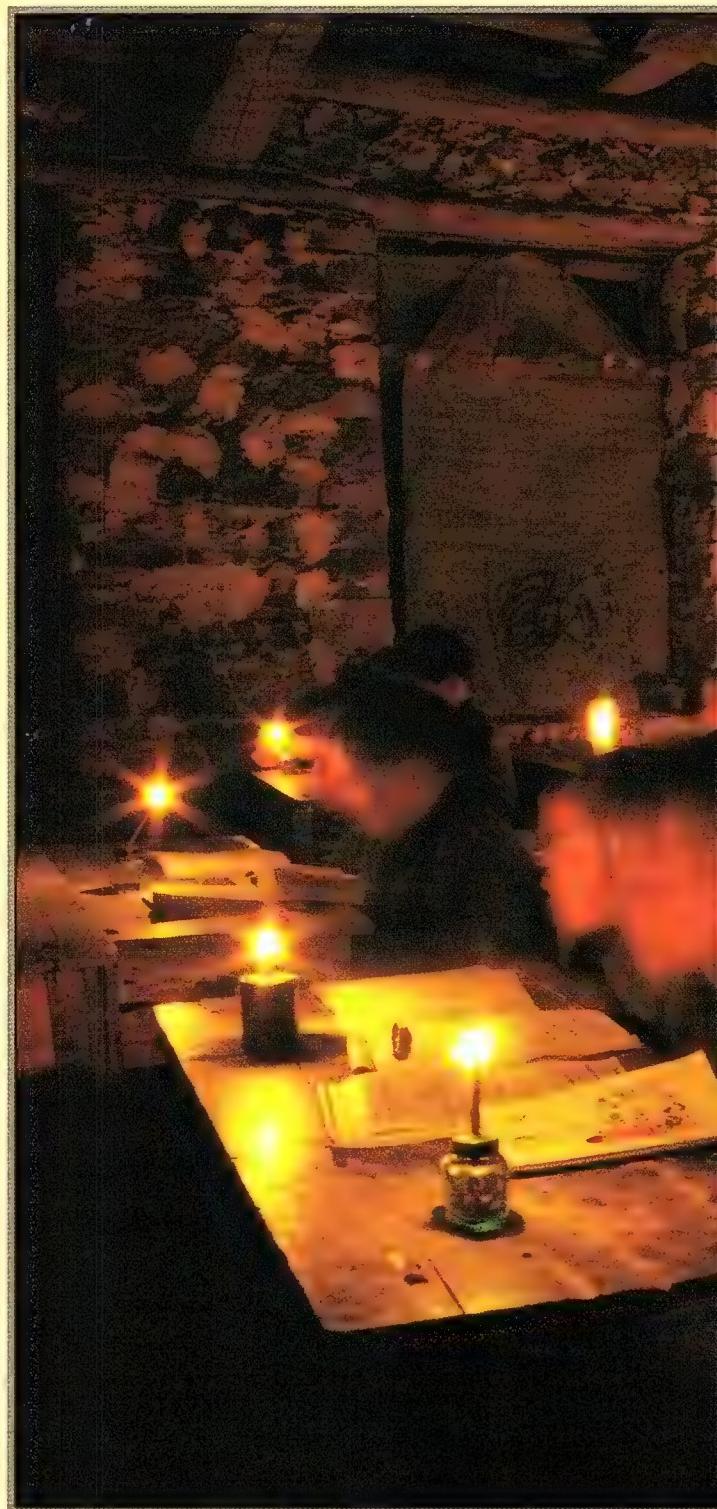
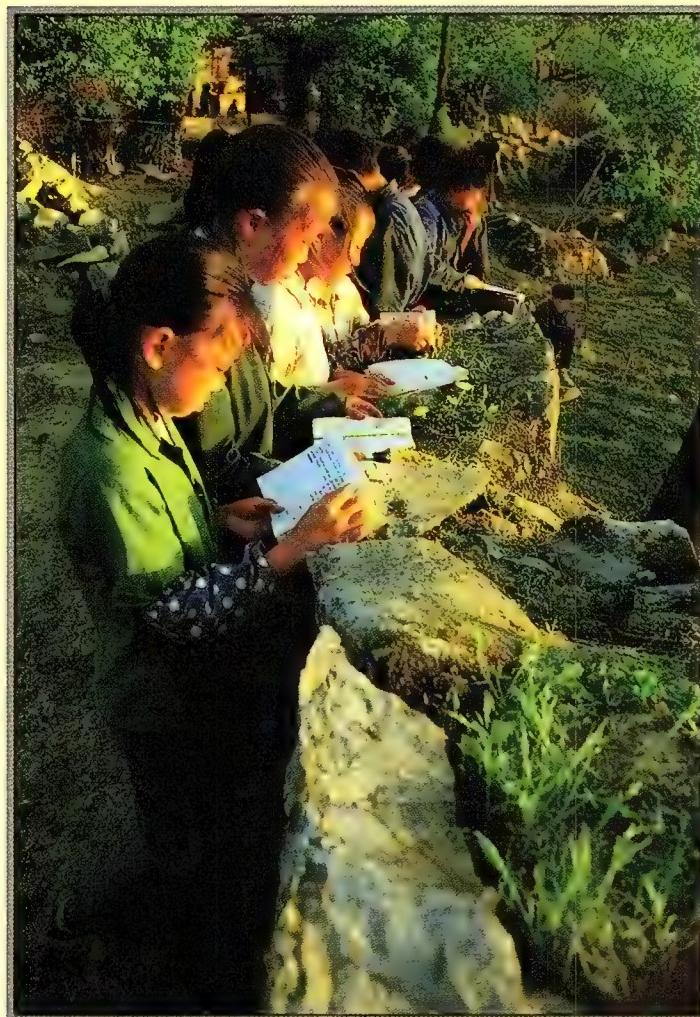




A Miao Village

One early morning, we visited a Miao village in Weixin. Smoke was curling up from the chimneys of different homes, hovering over the place like floating mist. The village, more than 400 years old, lies in terrain that makes communication and transportation very difficult. Over one hundred families of Bai Miao (White Miao, a branch of the Miao nationality) live here, leading a life of primitive simplicity: men go out to work with bird cages in hand and ploughshares on their shoulders while women stay home to weave and do household chores.

(Photo by Yang Jingwei)

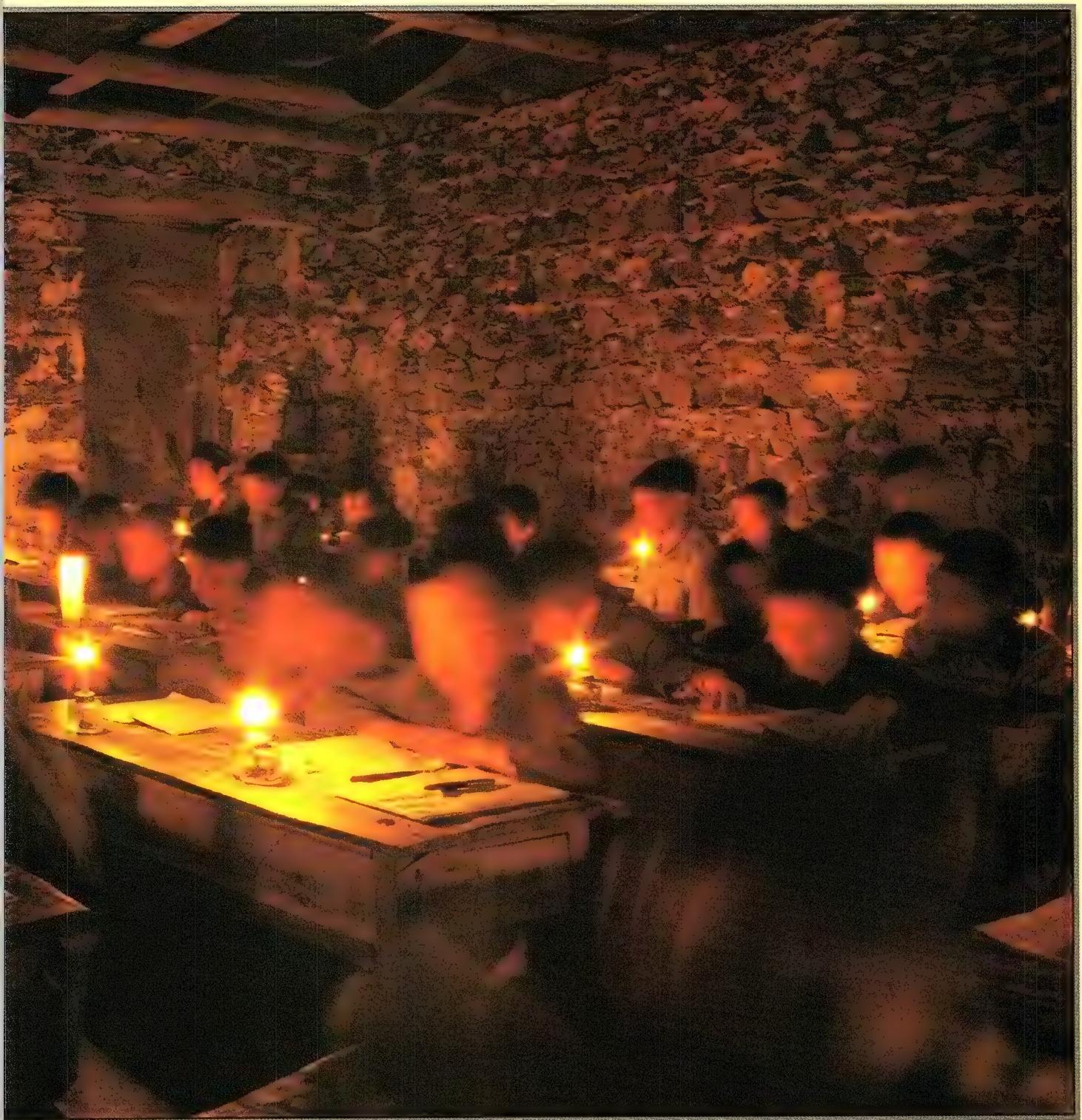


Village School

Suddenly, we heard children reading aloud. Guided by the voices, we came to a low mottled stone wall. Leaning against it were school children, reciting. The village now has its own primary school, a big change from the past when children had to walk more than ten kilometres on mountain paths every day to attend school in the market town at the foot of the mountain.

The village school also provides board and lodging for pupils living far away. In the evenings, these pupils do their homework in the classrooms, with lighting coming from a kerosene lamp on each desk.

(Photo by Yang Jingwei)



A Red Army Museum

On the slope of a hill in Weixin, we spotted a Miao woman with a child on her back in front of a two-storey wooden house. The building is now a museum. Weixin used to be called Zhaxi, and it is believed that the house was the site of the "Zhaxi Conference", an important meeting held to reorganize the Red Army during the Long March.

(Photo by Wang Miao)



Miao Girls Doing Their Chores

Shortly after sunrise, Miao girls in Weixin step outdoors to begin a day's heavy household duties. They are smartly dressed in costumes they have made. Black and blue set off by red and yellow are the main colours of their costumes. Black and blue symbolize dignity and solemnity while red and yellow express their hope for their offsprings' prosperity.

(Photo by Yang Jingwei)

The Day of Wearing Red

On the eve of his wedding, the Miao bridegroom's house is colourfully decorated, and even the courtyard has a festive air. In the evening, the bridegroom is dressed in new clothing from head to foot with the help of members of his clan.

The final touch is putting a long, red ribbon across his shoulder, so this day is customarily called "the day of wearing red".

(Photo by Shao Zibo)





Big Winnowing Pan

On our way to Mount Guandou, we encountered two young men in Gaotian Township, Weixin County, each bearing an extraordinarily big winnowing pan. Such pans serve a practical purpose locally. In the Zhaotong area, there is little sunshine, and it is cloudy and rainy most of the time. The local people use these big winnowing pans for drying food or other items.

To meet the needs created by the natural environment, this local product is meticulously woven with a radiating design. Whether hanging, standing or being carried on someone's back, the pans provide a visual delight that is fresh and novel.

(Photo by Shao Zibo)



Red Fruit in Winter

Zhenxiong is located near the main peak of the Wumeng Mountains in the hinterland of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Most days are cloudy and rainy, and although the temperature is low, plants here are resistant to cold. This tree on the roadside has already shed its green leaves but still bears strings of reddish fruit standing out against the blue sky. Like flames, this red fruit brightens the winter in Zhenxiong.

(Photo by Shao Zibo)



Going Out in the Dewy Morning

Mornings are enchanting at Mount Huashan in Niuchang, Zhenxiong County. The grass and bushes on the mountain are all covered with frost caused by the big discrepancy in temperatures between daytime and night. When the sun rises, however, its warmth turns the frost into dew, and local people are not afraid of getting wet. They get up early in the morning, dress in their traditional long robes and ride out on Yunnan's indomitable short horses along the wet mountain roads to make their living.

(Photo by Shao Zibo)

Strings of Pepper

In Xinhua Township of Zhaotong, we were greeted everywhere with strings of peppers. Due to the humid weather, the picked pepper must be strung and sun-dried before being ground into powder. Pepper powder, added to onions, garlic and sesame seeds and sprinkled with hot cooking oil, is a favourite dish of the local people. In this locality, where there are not three sunny days in a row, peppers can keep people warm as well as stimulate their appetite.

(Photo by Shao Zibo)



Xuanwei Ham

Xuanwei is noted for its hams, one of China's special products. This 76-year-old master, whom I met in Xuanwei, has sixty years of experience in curing and baking hams. The processing season runs from Frost Descent Day to the beginning of spring the next year. After good quality hams have been chosen, the masters rub them with a big chunk of Sichuan or Yunnan salt, squeeze out the blood water, and then bake them over a small fire or dry them. When the surfaces turn green, the master pricks three different parts of a ham with a needle to test its taste. Only when he gets a good sample from all three parts does the ham prove to be up to standards. Then it can safely be preserved for a long time.

(Photo by Shao Zibo)



Deity Who Protects the Village

When passing by the entrance of a stockaded village in Zhaotong, we saw a strange square stone column. There is a human face on each of three sides, while the fourth side is blank. On top of the column is a sketchy sculpture of a human head with the characters meaning Amitabha.

An elder of the village told us that this stone column is called "The Deity Who Protects the Stockaded Village". It is purported to dispel evil spirits, and every year villagers come to worship it on chosen days. (Photo by Shao Zibo)



Water Pipes of Xuanwei

At the market of Xuanwei one can frequently see for sale water pipes that are big, clumsy, and not easy to carry. I wondered why the local smokers choose them over cigarettes.

The fact is that the mountain people do not like the smell of cigarettes and prefer the tobacco which they dry themselves. What is more, smoking a water pipe has its own enjoyment. When the smoke goes through the water, it is filtered and gives out pleasant sounds. ☺

(Photo by Shao Zibo)

Translated by Anne Yan

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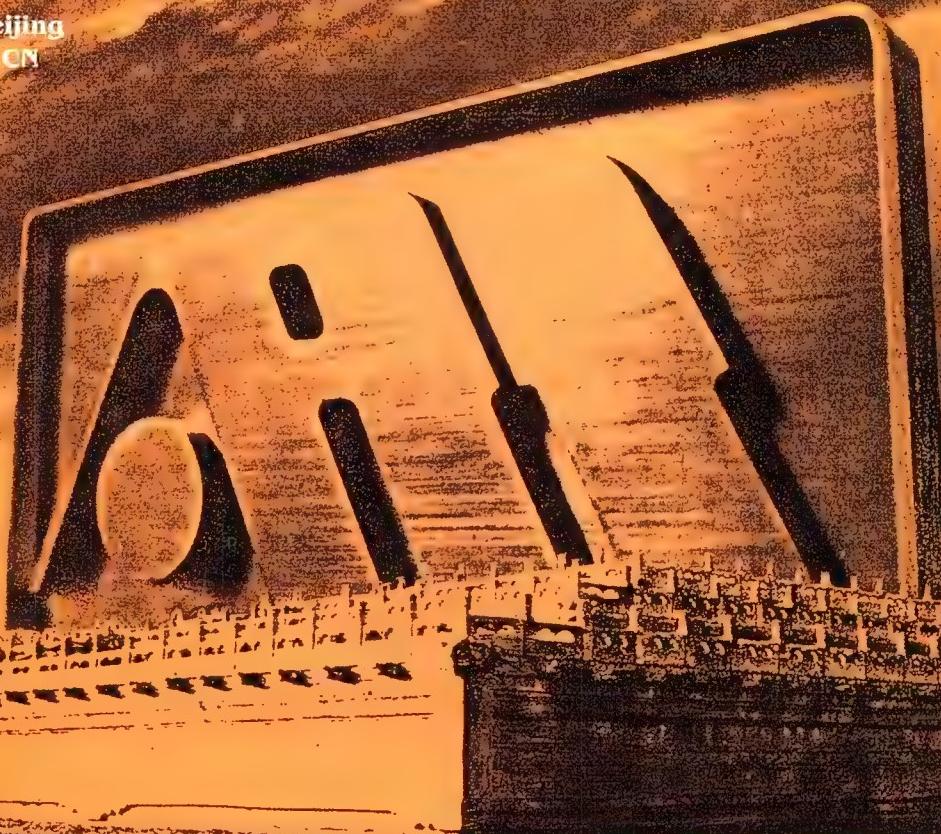
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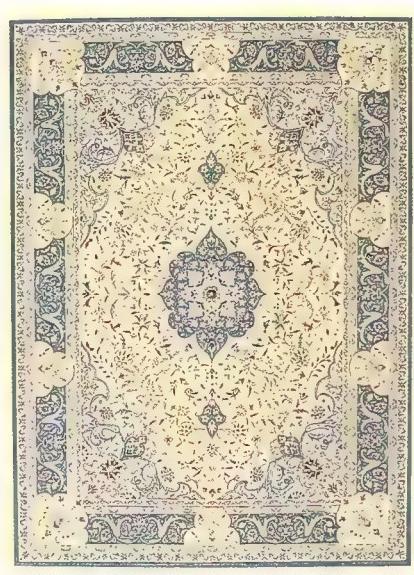
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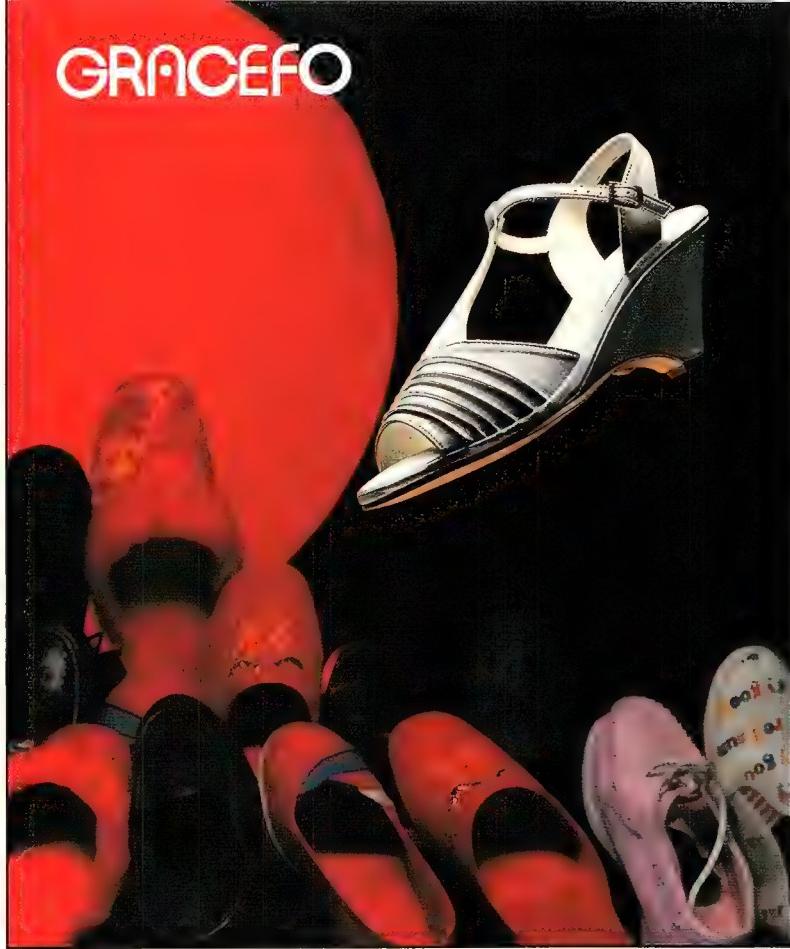


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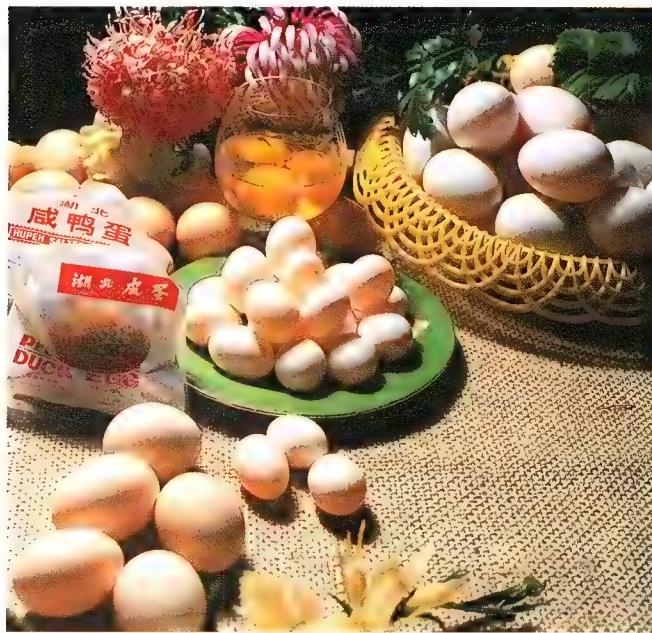




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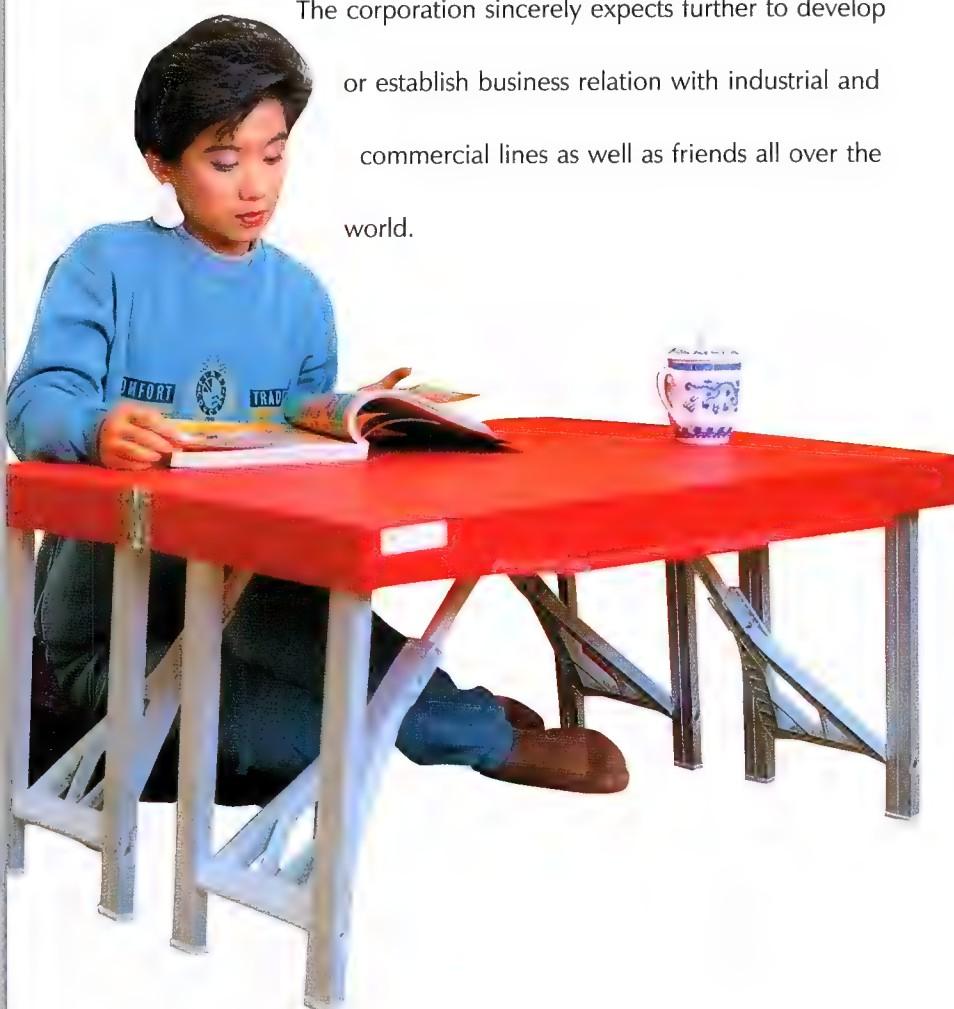
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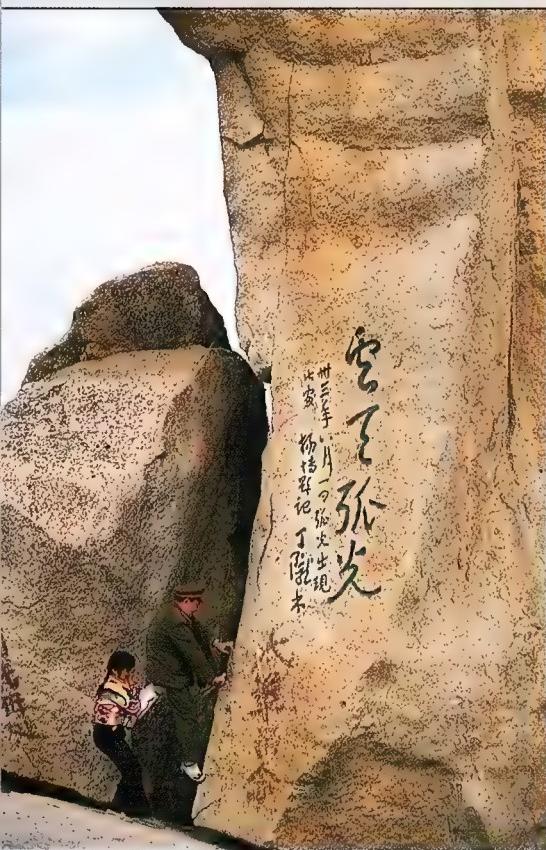
Beauty Abounds Amidst Sheer Cliffs

**PHOTOS BY HUA NIAN
ARTICLE BY BAO XIU**





The full moon outlines the contours of the mountains.



Inscriptions left by travellers of long ago are common on the ancient imperial route along Canglong Ridge.



The imposing entrance to the Xiyue Temple at the foot of Mount Huashan

An old saying has it that there has always been only one access to Mount Huashan. Therefore, like all previous travellers, I ascended Mount Huashan from the Yuquan Court located at its foothills.

Set in southern Huayin County, 120 kilometres east of Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, Mount Huashan is one of China's five most renowned mountains. This precipitous mountain forms part of the eastern section of the Plain of Guanzhong. With the Longhai (Lanzhou-Lianyungang) Railway and the Xi'an-Tongguan Highway crossing its foot, Mount Huashan is readily accessible.

Soon after we left Yuquan Court, we came to the "entrance" to the mountain. Having completed the necessary documentation, we hurried on our way at about three in the afternoon.

A gentle granite path led up the long way onto the mountain, yet those descending went stumbling past us like defeated soldiers; some even had to walk backwards as if fearing that their exhausted knees would give out. We couldn't help but burst into laughter at the sight but our porter apparently did not find it amusing. "Please do not be disgusted. Wait until you make your descent, you'll also find yourself walking backwards," he remarked. "The journey to the top is twenty kilometres in length, and the higher one goes, the more precipitous the mountain. Wait and see."

Dusk set in after we had passed Wuli Pass and Maonü Cave. We continued onto the Shibapan (Eighteen Turns). As the name suggests, the steep and ever-twisting Eighteen Turns really took the breath out of us.

The Boulder of Return

After we came out of Eighteen Turns' twists and turns, we reached Qingke Terrace where many people were eating at the roadside food stalls. They had decided to spend the night there to avoid covering the even more challenging journey ahead in the dark, yet we decided otherwise in order to save time.

A ten-minute walk from Qingke Terrace led us past a boulder named Huixinshi, or the Boulder of Return. It is said that this boulder serves to remind and warn those who are not sure of themselves to turn back.

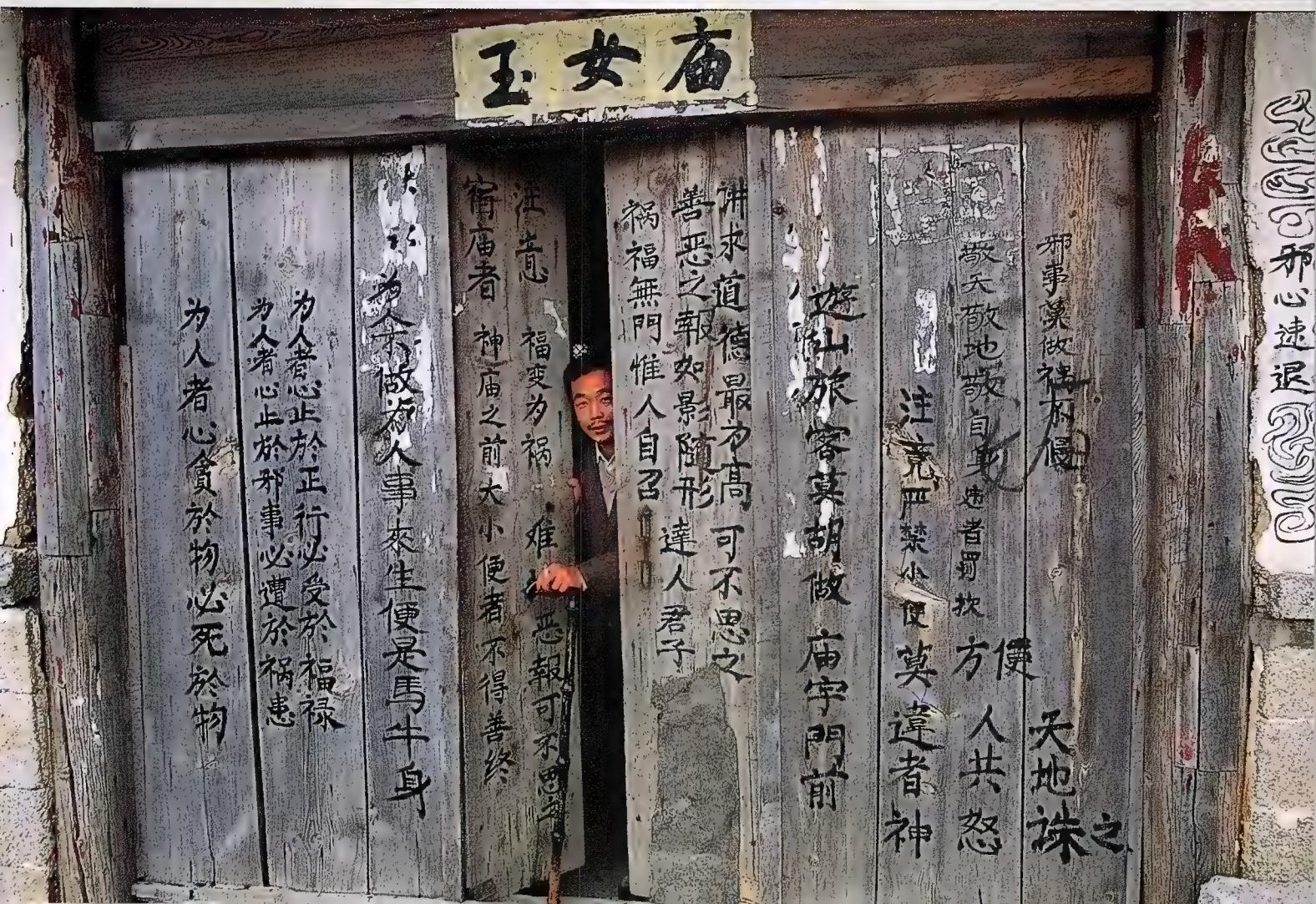
Of course, we did not take this advice. We just rested a while and then continued our journey. Beyond the Boulder of Return, hikers became rare. The voices that we heard once in a while were from people descending rather than ascending.

A little further ahead, after making a sharp turn to the left, I made a surprising discovery. Two flights of steps, tilted at

On this isolated, snow-covered mountain, the Qunxian (Group of Immortals) Temple seems to live up to its name.







an angle of more than eighty degrees, were wedged in the slanted crack of a huge rock. This is what people call Mount Huashan's first thriller, the Qianchi (One Thousand Foot) Pillar.

We tied our cameras tightly to our waists so that they would not crash against the stone walls or the steps. Then we held on tightly to the iron chains hung on the sides and felt our way up. We had to lean very close to the steps in order to maintain our balance, so close that our chins often knocked against them. At some points of the climb, the passage became so narrow that we had to squeeze through sideways. We were soaked with sweat before we knew it.

It was after nine when we finally made it to the North Peak, rising 1,614 metres above sea level and still the lowest of Mount Huashan's five peaks. We could hardly move another step.

In the flush of moonlight we saw the solitary Zhenwu Temple, perching on the narrow ridge of the North Peak like a fairy habitat. We were delighted to find that this fairy home was actually a hotel, and we decided to stay the night.

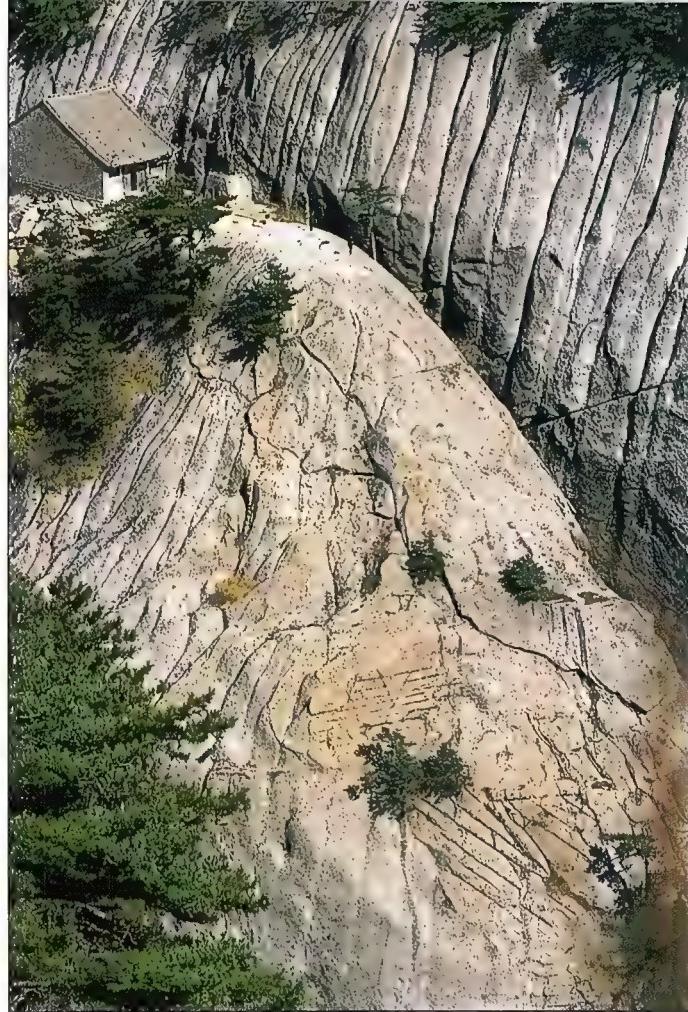
The Old Dragon Ridge

Early the next morning, we departed the North Peak for the south. We soon found ourselves moving very slowly along a two-foot wide walkway protruding out of a sheer precipice. Facing a seemingly bottomless space, we could only lean as close as possible to the rough rocks, so close that we almost rubbed our ears against them. Actually, this passage has a very telling name. It is called Ca'er (Ear-Rubbing) Cliff.

Having passed the Ear-Rubbing Cliff, we arrived at a very steep ridge, the famous Canglong (Old Dragon) Ridge. The ridge is the sole passageway from the North Peak to the other peaks of the mountain. People walking on this two-foot wide by 1.5-kilometre-long ridge were like ants crawling along the upturned blade of a huge knife. Legend has it that when Tang Dynasty writer Han Yu travelled to this point, he became completely overwhelmed by the mountain's force and might. He dared not take another step, neither uphill nor down, and burst into a wail while writing his last words to his family. In the end, the magistrate of Huayin County had to make Han drunk before they could carry him down the mountain.

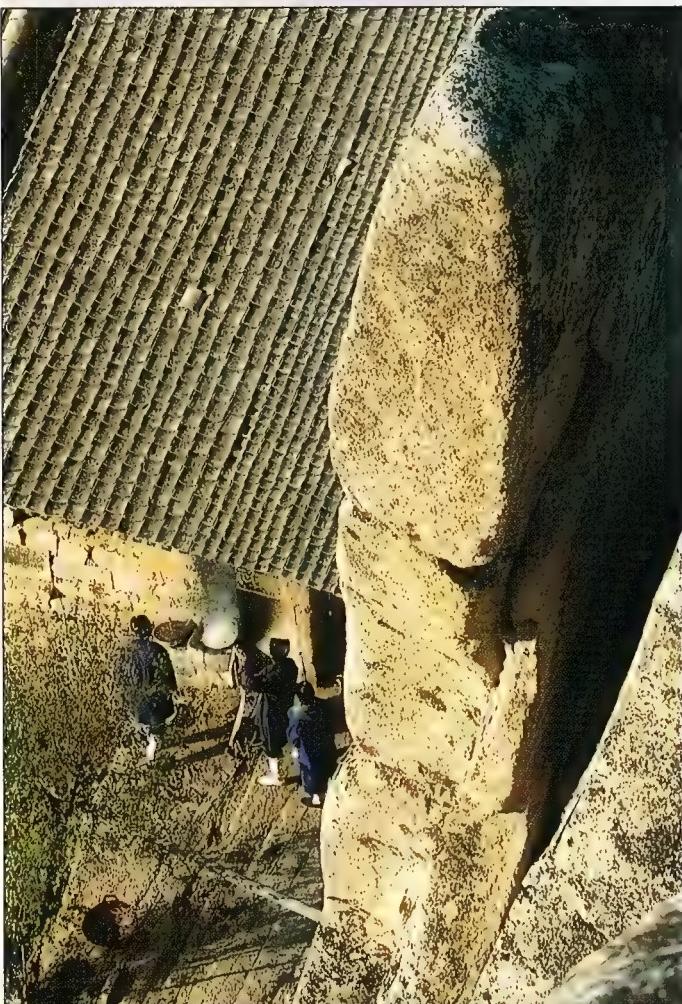
Fortunately for us, the Old Dragon Ridge was much safer when it was our turn to travel on it. Stone railings and iron chains had been installed on both sides of the ridge. But with the story of Han Yu at the back of our mind, we dared not be careless. We held on tightly to the iron chains and soon arrived at the Jinsuo Pass.

Left: Canglong Ridge and North Peak jutting out of the clouds; and, the front of Yunü Temple on the Middle Peak



Some of the cracks on the cliff face of the Middle Peak are used for carrying water to the Yunü Temple.

At another Taoist temple beneath the Canglong Ridge, some of the temple's inhabitants prepare their simple meal with the long noodles which are a speciality of Shaanxi.



Looking down from Jinsuo Pass, we saw the lower hills devoured by a vast sea of tossing clouds pierced only by the Old Dragon Ridge and the North Peak.

We made a brief visit to the Middle Peak, embraced by the other four peaks of Mount Huashan like a hidden terrace. On the cliff face were numerous naturally eroded water grooves, among which Taoist priests used to dig drainage ditches that would lead water to a reservoir.

Then we went to the East Peak by way of the Tianti, meaning Heavenly Stairs.

The slope of the East Peak is comparatively gentler than those of the other peaks. But the East Peak is known for its pierced precipice. We held on tightly to the iron chains of the Xianzhang (Fairy Palm) Boulder and looked down into the valley. The swirling of sparrow hawks and crows amidst tumbling clouds made us rather dizzy.

Climbing further from Fairy Palm Boulder, we soon reached the fearful "Where the Sparrow Hawks Loop". Here, hikers followed one another as they climbed down the cliff face with their backs facing a 30-metre-deep valley, their bellies up, their hands clutching ropes, and the tips of their feet feeling for the next four-inch deep depression dug out of the sheer rock surface into which they could rest the weight of their body.

We followed the example of these travellers, of course, and when we had finally reached the terrace safely, we all sighed in relief. Looking at the posture of the people who were climbing down, I began to realize why this place was given its name.

Plank Road Hanging in the Air

The Changkong (Vast Sky) Plank Road is not an obligatory passage for those travelling from the East Peak to the South, but it had become the thing to do on any adventurer's itinerary. The thrill and excitement of travelling on the plank road were so well known that we could not have missed it!

In order to reach this famous plank road, we had to climb down through an upright crack in a huge boulder. A small path dug out from a cliff face led to this crack, which was seemingly created by the blow of a giant axe. The opening was about the width of two persons standing beside each other. Between the walls of the narrow crack are installed iron bars which form a hanging ladder. One has to descend the crack along this ladder to reach the plank road at the bottom.

I was rather nervous as I allowed my body to rest on the iron bars aware that the slightest carelessness would lead to a deadly fall. The wind was strong and howling through the crack as if it were trying to pull someone away with it.



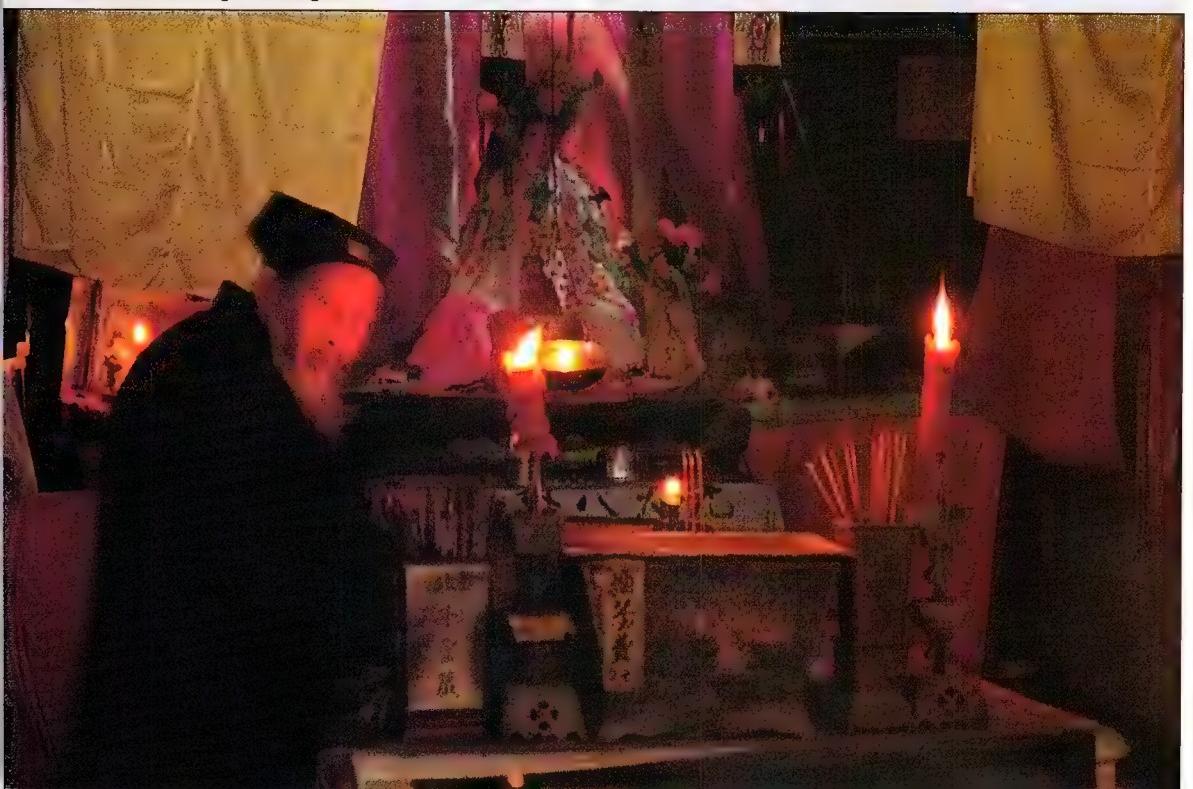
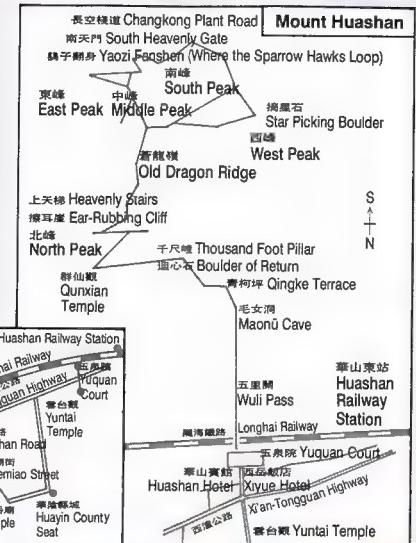




Viewing the mountains and another photographer at work from the South Peak

Previous page: The heart-stopping descent on the iron ladder on the way to the plank road below.

A Taoist priest is captured cleaning the altar by the flickering candlelight.



there had not been people following me, I might have decided to turn back!

As I came to the end of the hanging ladder, my feet landed on the road. This plank road is about ten metres long and made up of pieces of wooden planks hammered into the barren rocks of a cliff. The only source of security is the big iron chain installed on the cliff face for climbers to hang onto. Yet, when people come to the end of the plank road, they have to double back, and therefore, share the narrow plank road with those who have just started. At this point, everyone would rather be the one who is closer to the rocks.

Suddenly someone screamed. I held onto the iron chain as firmly as I could and leaned against the cliff face as closely as possible. Slowly I turned and saw a hat fluttering down into the bottomless valley. The owner was the young girl who was standing right behind me. Apparently she was terrified and dared not move another step.

The Star Picking Boulder

Having retreated from the thrilling plank road, we passed by the South Heavenly Gate to reach the South Peak, the summit of Mount Huashan. We gazed into the distance and saw the Qinling Range fold into a vast and hazy infinity where the sky and the clouds became one.

At dusk, a cloud of rain began to envelop the peak and the sky darkened quickly. In a thick fog we searched for the way to Cuiyun (Green Cloud) Palace on the West Peak where we spent the night.

An extraordinarily fine day greeted us early next morning. The rain and fog had disappeared completely. We climbed to the highest point of the West Peak, the Zhaixing (Star Picking) Boulder. The rays of the morning sun had already pierced the sea of rosy clouds which flushed the various valleys. The early light covered peak after peak like a golden blanket while the clouds cast their moving shadows onto the silver-grey cliffs. At this time I discovered that the other mountains in the vicinity were equally grand and perilous, especially Mount Sangong to the south of Mount Huashan. According to our porter, Mount Sangong did not have any roads, paths or even trails and had remained totally inaccessible.

We visited the western end of the West Peak once again to see, standing firmly amidst dancing clouds, the Old Dragon Ridge, the North Peak and the many nameless mighty mountains in the background. The houses on the North Peak were like heavenly palaces described in legends, beautiful and yet untouched....

Translated by Chapman Lee

Intrepid hikers cross the narrow and dangerous Canglong Ridge.



The Art of War : An Ancient Puzzle Solved

PHOTOS BY WANG SHUDE

TEXT BY WANG ZHIHOU

China's oldest and most outstanding book on military science is *Sun Zi Bingfa* (*Sun Zi's Art of War*) by Sun Wu also known as Sun Zi. He was a military adviser during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). The best known and most often quoted statement from the book is: "Know the enemy and know yourself, and you can fight a hundred battles with no danger of defeat."

Sun Wu is believed to have written his now famous book for He Lü, the King of the State of Wu, at the end of the sixth century B.C., although historians disagree about the date. In any event, the book was still known in the fifth century B.C. when the historian Sima Qian wrote of it and its author in his own book *Shi Ji* (*Records of the Historian*).

Sun Wu's descendant, Sun Bin, was also a military strategist and he acted as advisor to the King of the State of Qi during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.). Exercising his formidable wit, Sun Bin came up with a scheme by which he lured the Wei army, enemies of the State of Qi, to Maling, where the Wei army was dealt a severe blow. In addition, Sun Bin captured the Wei general Pang Juan. Like his famous ancestor, Sun Bin and his book, *Sun Bin Bingfa* (*Sun Bin's Art of War*) were also cited in Sima Qian's *Shi Ji*. However, the book seems to have been lost between then and the Tang Dynasty (618-907). At that time, a book titled *Sui Shu* (*History of the Sui Dynasty*) was written, and it included a large section on historical books. Sun Bin's book was omitted from it, leading many scholars of the time to believe that it had never actually existed despite the references to it by Sima Qian who was a respected historian.

In any event, the issue was resolved in 1972 by the excavation of two Han Dynasty tombs in Yinqueshan, Linyi, Shandong Province. The tombs date back to the reign of Emperor Wudi (reign

dates 140-87 B.C.) of the Western Han Dynasty. Among the thousands of items unearthed were 4,900 bamboo strips, the book pages of their time. This find was one of the major archaeological events in China during this century.

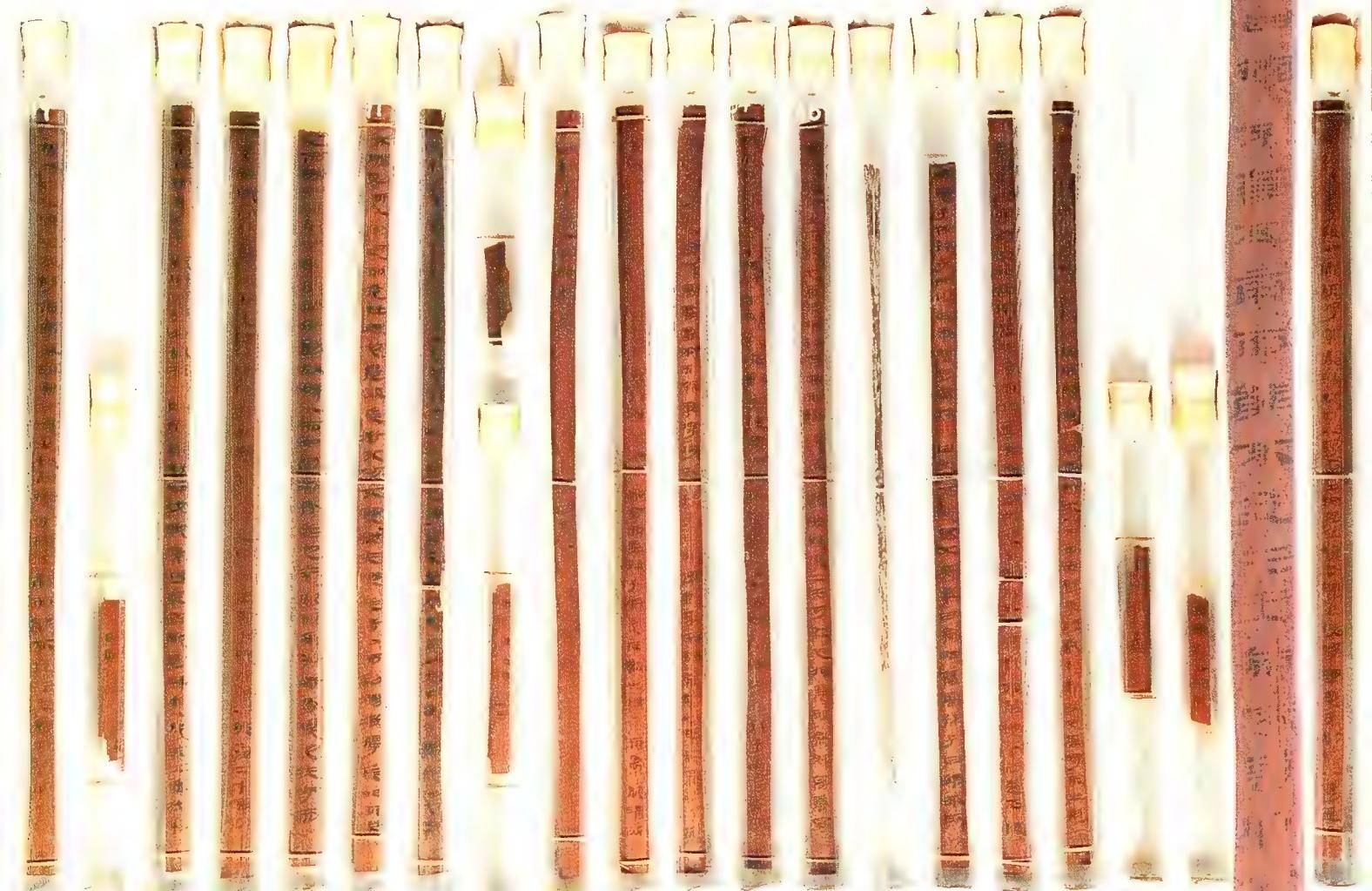
Among the books found were *Sun Bin's Art of War* which settled, once and for all, the debate about its existence. Also found in the tombs were *Sun Zi's Art of War*, *Yan Zi's Spring and Autumn Annual* and *Calendar of the First Reigning Year of Emperor Wudi of the Western Han Dynasty*.

The find not only proved the existence of Sun Bin's book, it also included a record of the capture of Pang Juan. The discovery greatly enriched the treasury of ancient Chinese military science and added important data on Chinese history. The bamboo strips also proved invaluable to philology and textual criticism.

The strips were written in official script using an ink-soaked brush. For the most part, the writing appears to be proper and formal. Some, however, was done in a rapid manner, marked by an economy of line and a tendency to join strokes. The writing was done by more than one person, and it seems to go back to between the early to late second century B.C.

The long narrow bamboo strips, such as those found in the tombs, and square wooden tablets were popular writing media in the period from the Eastern Zhou to the Wei and Jin Dynasties (5th century B.C.-A.D. 3rd century). By and large, scholars wrote books or copied classical works on bamboo strips, whereas they used single pieces of wooden tablets to write official documents and letters. With the invention of paper during the Han Dynasty, writing on bamboo was no longer necessary, and bamboo writings, such as those found in the Han tombs, became historical curiosities. G

Translated by He Fei





Into an Imagined World of Long Ago

ARTICLE BY KE FENG



Once past the 'wanted' bill (1), you enter a world modelled on a Song-dynasty painting (2) (both by Wang Miao).

Those who are curious about what Bianjing (present-day Kaifeng in Henan) was like when it was the capital of the Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) do not have to wait until the scientists invent a time warp machine. Instead, they can take a stroll down the 'Song Dynasty Street' – a recreation of buildings and street scenes in Song times – in Kaifeng itself or visit the Song (or Sung) Dynasty Village in Hong Kong.

The Song Dynasty Village, located in Lai Chi Kok Amusement Park in Kowloon, is easily accessible by public bus or by the Mass Transit Railway, Hong Kong's underground rail system. One point to note is that it is only open to individual visitors (those not on organized tours) at the weekend. At the entrance to the village you are greeted by several large, colourful flags bearing the Chinese characters 大宋 (literally, 'Great Song') fluttering atop the gate tower. The man who collects your ticket is dressed in Song-dynasty costume, and you will find all the rest of the staff similarly attired, helping to create the right atmosphere. A handbill posted on a wooden notice board next to the city gate promises a reward of 'five hundred taels of silver' for anyone who can assist the authorities to apprehend a vicious criminal. This tallies with descriptions given in novels such as the classic *Outlaws of the Marsh*, based on happenings in the Song dynasty, in which the heroes are not infrequently framed by dishonest officials and placed on the 'wanted' list.

The complex occupies about 6,666 square metres and cost something like fifteen million Hongkong dollars to build. To ensure accuracy, artists and skilled traditional craftsmen were



1

Touches to add verisimilitude: painted lantern (1) and exquisitely carved ivory birdcage (3) (both by Lam Kin Fai). A calligrapher adds the final seal to a personalized fan (2) while a fortune-teller waits for a client (4, by Peng Zhenge). Master Wang's mansion gives an excellent idea of Song-style architecture (5) (2 and 5 by Chan Yat Nin).



2

brought from the mainland to advise on the work and supervise construction. It opened in 1979. Though it is not that large, less than a hectare, the designers made the best possible use of space. A comparison of the architecture and layout with that portrayed in the *Riverside Scene at Qingming*, an extraordinary scroll painting by the Northern Song artist Chang Zeduan, shows that it is closely modelled on various sections of the painting.

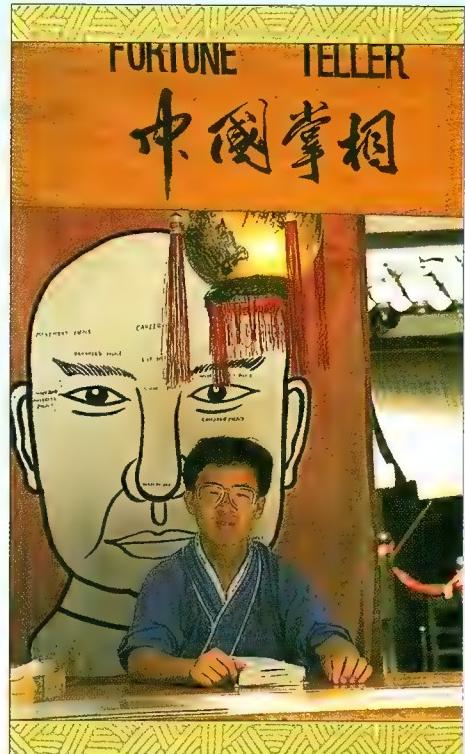
The village is divided into two by an artificial stream. One of the banks is lined with weeping willows shading a row of elegant single-storey houses in a dark redwood (a reddish brown was the favourite colour for buildings at that time). On the opposite bank stands a row of buildings with whitewashed walls and black tiled roofs housing traditional medicine stores, martial arts schools, wood engravers' workshops, and so on. There are also food stalls, winehouses, shops selling tea, and a small art gallery where you can take your treasured Chinese paintings and scrolls to be mounted.

The latter seems to have more pulling power than the others. Most of the shops display their wares tucked away safely in showcases, so you are unable to touch or admire them closely. However, the art gallery is rather different. Its owner demonstrates his skills in painting and calligraphy from time to time as well. Chinese palace lanterns look even more glamorous and majestic after he has applied detailed and lively patterns of flowers and birds to them. His expertise keeps a constant flow of visitors happy.

The sight reminded me of the edict passed by Emperor Taizu of the early Northern Song

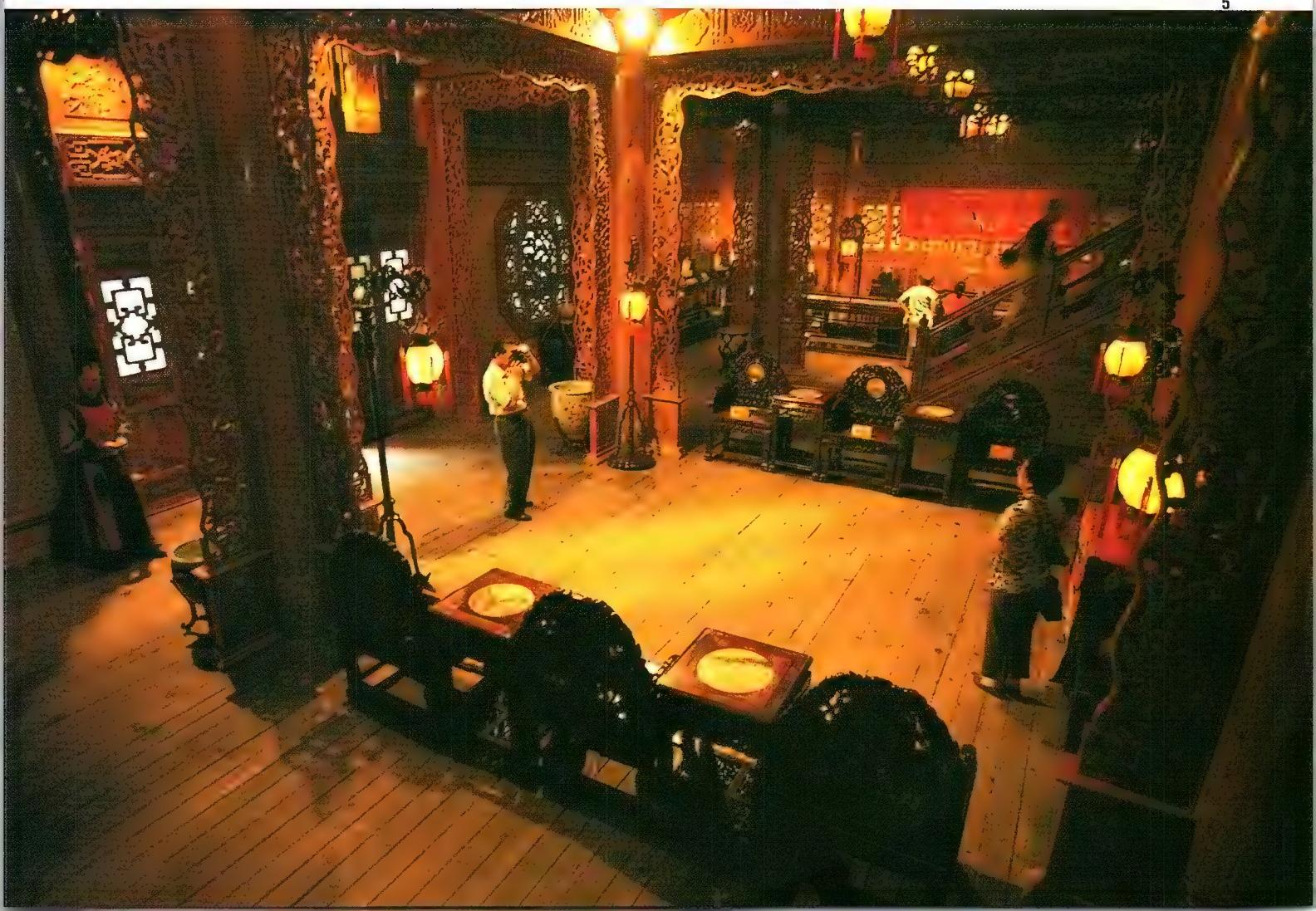


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ordering that imperial schools of art should be set up. These turned out many outstanding painters and at the same time created the right cultural background for the proliferation of art. Hence, it is no surprise to find galleries or shops selling fine arts in this imitation of a Song-dynasty urban centre.

Another type of business common in those times was fortune-telling, which goes back a long, long way in China. In the painting mentioned earlier, the *Riverside Scene at Qingming*, the artist included figures of fortune-tellers strolling through the streets of the Song capital looking for business. Since it is intended to recreate that same atmosphere, the Song Dynasty Village obviously also has a few booths where visitors can put themselves into the hands of fortune-tellers who claim they can see into the future.

At the end of the main street stands the grand mansion of Master Wang — Fengzelou (Mansion of Abundance) — a huge, two-storeyed Song-style building. As you go in, you are greeted by the strong scent of sandalwood. There is also a most impressive set of furniture in rosewood. In the centre of the wall at the far end of the main hall hangs a wooden board bearing the name Jide (Virtuous) Hall. This is a replica of a board inscribed in the seventh year of the Yuanfeng reign (1084) by the prime minister and reformist Wang Anshi. Since it would obviously have been a signal honour to have a board written for one's household by such an august personage, this is intended to underline the rank and status of Master Wang. As the day fades into dusk and the gentle glow of lamps shines through the lattice windows and reflects off the engraved ceiling,



The wax museum presents historical figures (1, by Peng Zhenge) and tableaux telling stories such as that of the loyal Song general Yue Fei (3). Incense in every form and shape (2, by Wang Miao). Enjoying the views from Master Wang's mansion (4) (3 and 4 by Chan Yat Nin).



2



1

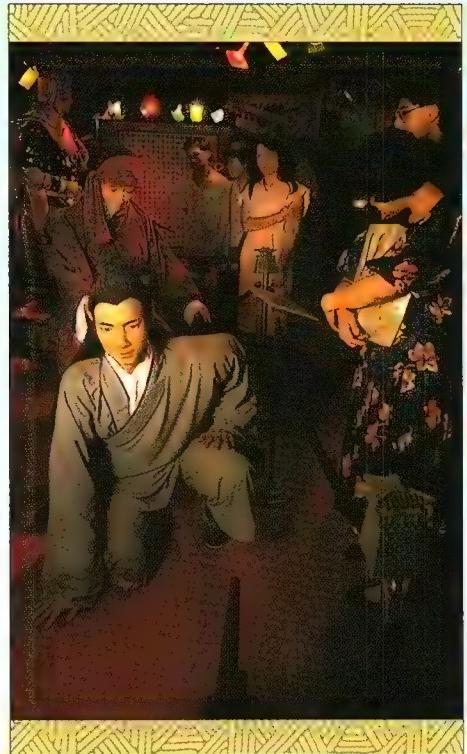
the mansion exudes an almost mystical ambience.

The chamber on the upper floor is even more luxurious. There are antiques everywhere you look and a bookcase containing thread-bound books and traditional Chinese stationery towers in one corner of the room. All the appointments of the room tell us that the imaginary family living here were scholars and adhered to the traditional moral teachings. The antiques on display are apparently the personal treasures of the owner of the Song Dynasty Village.

Another attraction of the complex is the wax museum next door. This is by no means large yet, in the dim light in the exhibition rooms, characters ranging from the legendary Huangdi (Yellow Emperor) to Dr Sun Yat-sen, the 'father' of modern China, illustrate the 5,000-year span of Chinese history and culture.

The Song Dynasty Village also stages appropriate performances for the entertainment of visitors. When I was there, the complex was celebrating its tenth anniversary, so the usual programme was enriched by the presence of guest artistes.

A Song-style wedding, that of Master Wang's daughter, was the first thing I saw. The wedding parade was led by two servants in bright red livery, each holding up a wooden board with two giant characters which read 'Coming for the bride'. They were followed by a couple of maids bearing several bolts of lustrous silk. Next came the matchmaker, escorting a gorgeously decorated sedan-chair carried by four men. They came to a halt outside Master Wang's mansion, where the matchmakers of the two families exchanged betrothal presents. Then out came the bride, her face hidden under a



3



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piece of red cloth, ready to set off to her new home. She and the groom greeted each other in front of the sedan-chair which had 'A harmonious marriage' written on it. After the bride had taken her place in the sedan-chair and the escort started to bear her off, the matchmakers tossed rice into the air. In Song times, people believed this would drive away evil spirits, but it was also a wish for fertility for the bride.

Monkeys were the stars of the next event. Variety performances, some of the oldest forms of entertainment in China, were especially popular in the Song dynasty. Under the direction of their master, the monkeys walked the high wire, towed a miniature cart and performed handstands, winning rounds of applause from the audience. The master and trainer was a man of over sixty who told me he had begun travelling around and performing with his teacher at the age of thirteen. He is apparently the only person in Hong Kong officially licensed to give monkey shows.

A martial arts demonstration followed, this time inside a theatre. The first to perform was a young man of about twenty. He started by exhibiting his astonishing control over his limbs and body. He bent over so that his head touched his feet then, inch by inch, he manoeuvred himself through a cylinder which was even smaller than his waist.

The next performer had two metal blades which he threw into a piece of wood to demonstrate their sharpness. He then placed them cutting edge upward on wooden supports and stood up straight, pulling in his belly and gathering his *qi*. Firmly he put one bare foot on one of the blades and let out a loud cry before stepping up on the other blade with his other foot. He remained in that position for a few seconds before stepping down safe and sound.



Auspicious red for the Song wedding (1) and for the monkey performers (2). Diverse entertainments include a display of qigong skill (3) (2 and 3 by Peng Zhenge), the Mao Yuan Drum Dance (4) (1 and 4 by Lam Kin Fai), and a Tang-dynasty dance (5, by Wang Miao).



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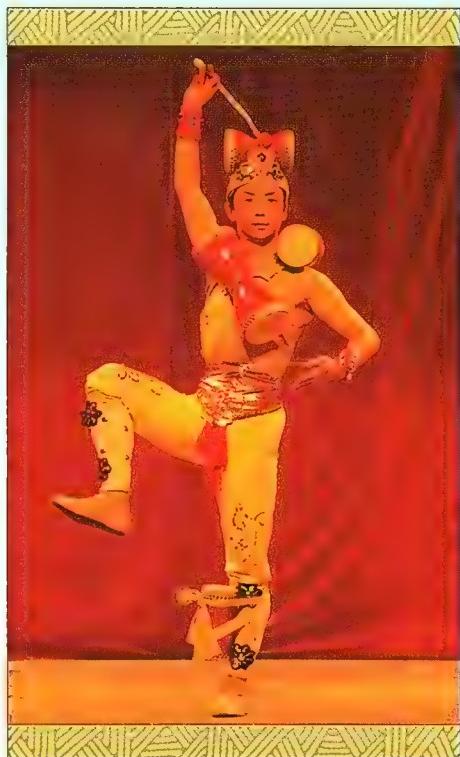
This man is a skilled practitioner of *qigong* (a martial art based on breathing and marshalling of the inner strength). He said that it was thanks to his *qigong* training that it had taken him only a few months to master this technique. The loud cry helps him to concentrate, but it also enables him to 'raise his *qi*' and remove the weight from his lower body so that his feet are not injured.

The next item took place by special invitation. The Song and Dance Troupe of Shaanxi Provincial Opera's Song and Dance Theatre had taken up residence for one month to assist with the tenth anniversary celebrations. This troupe has a reputation for splendid performances of Tang-dynasty (618-907) music and dancing. Not quite the Song dynasty, but close! Based on paintings, cultural relics and historical descriptions from the Tang dynasty, as well as the famous murals at the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu Province, the hairstyles and costumes had a strong flavour of antiquity.

The items presented the day I was there included a *pipa* (Chinese lute) solo; the White Ramie-Cloth Dance, said to be a popular folk dance in the Central Plains at the time of the Tang dynasty, danced by five young girls with long silk ribbons; and the Mao Yuan Drum Dance, a male solo. The latter, which I found very impressive, was based on the images of Mao Yuan drum dancers portrayed in the Buddhist murals in the grottoes at Dunhuang. With small waisted drums fixed to his head, shoulder, knee and chest, the dancer beat them with a short soft whip to create the rhythm. He displayed both skill and elegance as he moved around the stage, beating his drums all the while. ☐



3



4

Translated by Ursula Yeung

5





Tang Dynasty Carved Bricks at Xiuding Monastery

PHOTOS BY REN BAOMING TEXT BY YU AN

Anyang was a Buddhist centre in the northernmost part of Henan Province during the Eastern Jin (317-420) and the Northern (386-581) Dynasties. By the Northern Qi Dynasty in the latter part of the 6th century, there were more than 1,000 Buddhist monasteries in the area. The most famous were the Baoshan, Xiangtang and the Heshui or Xiuding. Anyang was still a Buddhist centre during the Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) Dynasties when the Tang Dynasty pagoda was built at the Xiuding Monastery.

The pagoda stood in the monastery on Mount Qingliang, thirty-five kilometres northwest of Anyang. However, it was destroyed near the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), and all that remains is a 9.5-metre tower. This exquisitely carved stone structure once stood midway between the Lokapala and Big Buddha Halls. Unlike other pagodas, this one does not store the ashes of a high monk or contain other religious relics. It was, instead, an important part of the architecture of the monastery to be used for worship by Buddhists.

The pagoda tower is largely covered with diamond-shaped bricks reminiscent of Islamic design of a type first seen in the Kez'er Grottoes in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Experts believe that either the designer of the pagoda came under the influence of the Western Regions or else the craftsmen who built the pagoda actually came from the West.

The bricks that decorate the wall of the pagoda have a variety of motifs including portraiture, animals and lotuses. The entire wall below the eave is one enormous and beautifully carved curtain. Immediately below the eave are carved a row of guardians, children and animal masks. Below them are six animals with rings in their mouths and six rosettes linking the diamond-shaped bricks to each other. Each brick, however, is a design unit in itself, carved with a Taoist priest, Bodhisattva, a warrior, a child, a Westerner or a heavenly horse. Each figure has been strongly and carefully executed to create vivid characters in motion. The figures on these bricks are among the best carved during the Tang Dynasty.

One of the 72 designs is that of the Three Purities, an unusual find in a Buddhist setting as the Three Purities are Taoist deities. In fact, Taoist shrines are often called Three Purity Temples. That these Taoist deities are here, alongside Buddhist icons, demonstrates how, at one time, both religions coexisted in harmony.



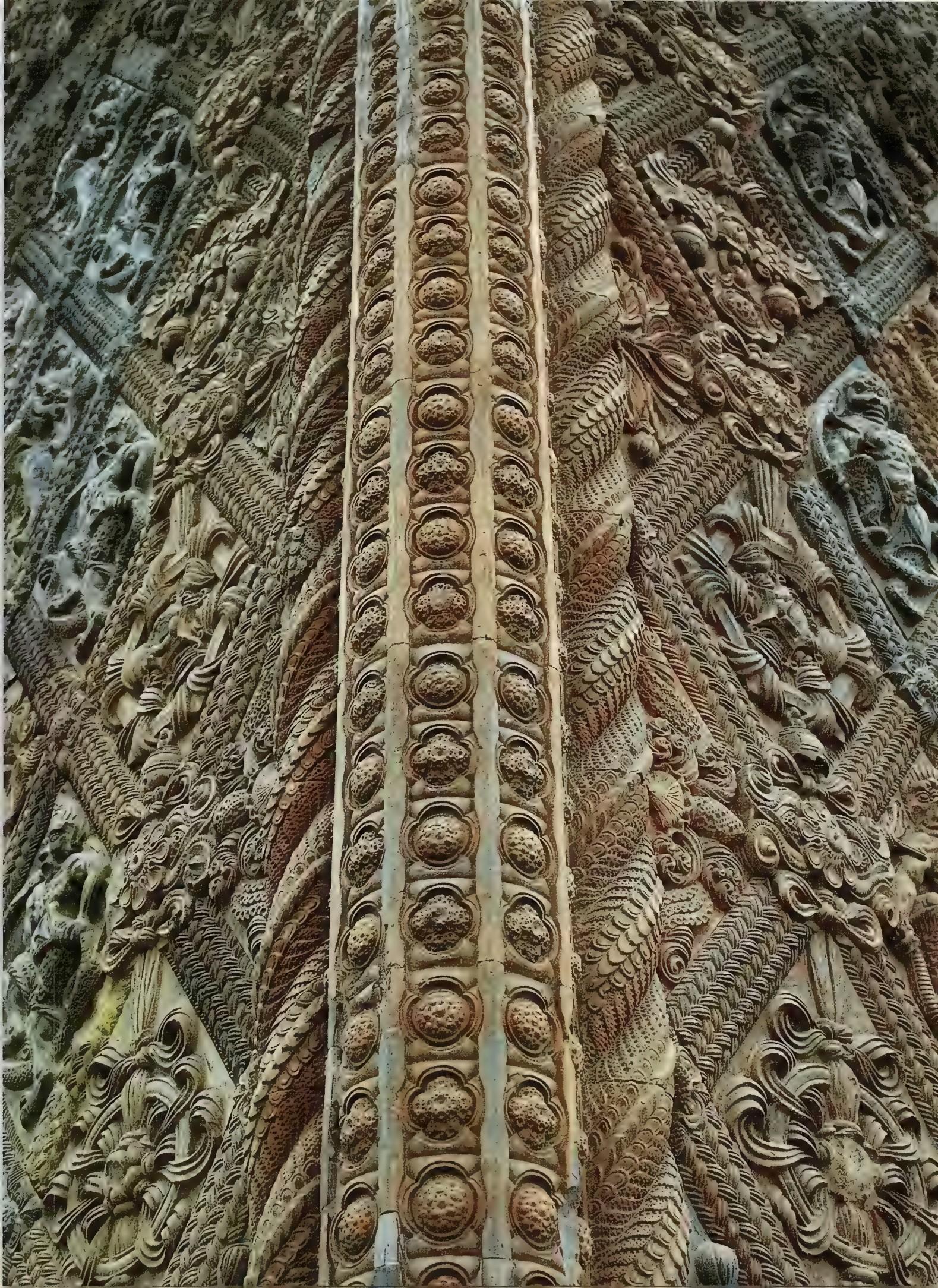
△ Panoramic View of the Pagoda

The Tang Dynasty pagoda is a square, single-storey tower made of 3,775 bricks of varying sizes. With a strict composition, the pagoda is reinforced with solid walls on three sides. It looks like a concrete brick pillar, and the architect paid attention to sturdiness and service ability, despite the hollow interior.

▷ Corner Columns

The four corners of the pagoda have been made into columns with sixteen cross sections with a fractured surface which are made of horseshoe bricks. The corner column is surfaced by intricate small rosettes, with two sides paved by carved bricks that have coiled-dragon designs framing the column.

(Photo by Liu Yiran)



Knocker with Ring

This carved figure sits atop the arched entryway on the southern wall of the pagoda. His inward turning bulging eyes and his bulbous nose seem to focus on the visitor at the gate. The muscles on his face show great strength, and all in all, he presents a terrifying and forceful presence.



The Guardian

Lokapala is a guardian and tomb-protector, part of the Tang Dynasty mythology. This guardian at the Xiuding Monastery reflects a high degree of realism, especially in the detailed carving of the figure's musculature.

(Photo by Li Zixing)



The Dancing Westerner

His pointed cap, the draping of his robes and his features all mark this figure as the portrait of a dancer from the Western Regions. His feet are positioned in what would, in later centuries, be called a sailors' hornpipe. He seems to be quite at ease in his movement, which is natural and graceful.



Guardian Capturing a Snake

This diamond-shaped brick portrays a guardian who has seized a snake. The guardian's bare torso is well defined as are the details of his high boots. Both the guardian and the snake are locked in struggle, but the guardian looks determined to kill the reptile. Although some exaggeration was used to delineate the guardian, basically the artist observed the principles of anatomy.

Another Western Dancer

This is another figure of a dancer from the Western Regions. His hair is cropped short as is his beard. His raised arms move with the music. With his bent leg and tilted body, there is no doubt that the artist has caught him in mid-step.

(Photo by Li Zixing)



The Flying Apsara

Delicate and graceful, this fairy flies for ever in stone, her eyes fixed on a far horizon. The folds of her skirt have caught the wind, and the artist who created her has caught her mobility and beauty.

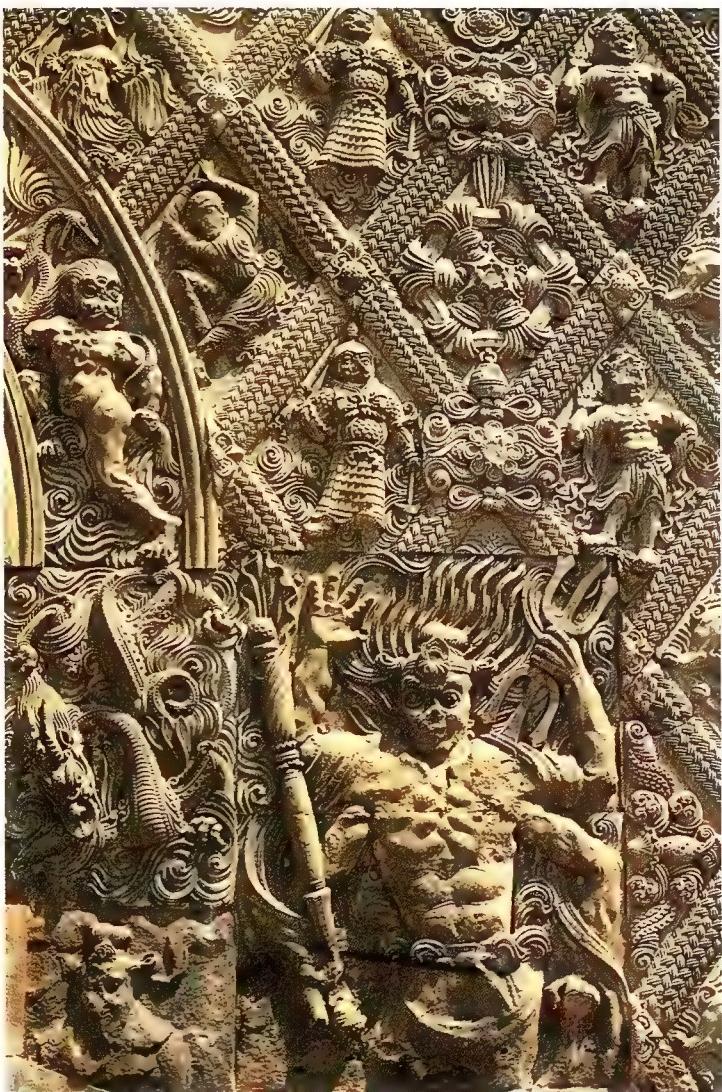
Lokapalas

The Lokapalas carved on the pagoda fully display the distinctive artistic style of the Tang Dynasty. Realistically portrayed, they are carefully carved and adorned with striking effectiveness.

C

(Photo by Li Zixing)

Translated by He Fei





THE GLAMOROUS FIREWORKS FROM ZHEJIANG

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**Photographer:
TANG YONGGANG**



Fishing boats are probably like a second home to the people of the Zhoushan Archipelago. The largest in China, it is situated off the coast of Zhejiang in the East China Sea. The archipelago consists of 1,339 islands, 98 of which are inhabited. The main fishing grounds are the Shengsi Group which teem with both fish and boats during the height of the summer fishing season.

C



Wooden Toys from Shandong

PHOTOS BY XU ZHUO

What once delighted only children in Linyi and Tancheng Counties of Southeastern Shandong Province now delights collectors all over the world. These colourful toys, made with local woods such as poplar, willow and Chinese parasol, express a somewhat deceptive simplicity. After carving, which is done following a model, the figures are completely painted white. When the white base coat has dried, the colours are painted in to create the patterns. Red is the most important colour, but faces, in particular, are done in black. Greens, yellows and purples are also used to add colour and to delineate designs.

The patterns, such as creature faces and cloud patterns, are often taken from those on ancient bronzes. The makers of these toys also borrow from legends and use birds, animals and fruits with auspicious meanings in their designs.

These toys, although they look primitive, would be a treat for any child. Some of them are whistles, some are vehicles, others are toy weapons and most have moveable parts. For example, the cart pictured here does a variety of things: the wheels turn, the passenger bangs his cymbals and, to help him make music, the small wooden baton beats out the rhythm on the brightly painted drum.

What child, or for that matter, what collector, would not love to own some of these amusing toys? ☐



**TRADE
LINK**



Traditional Cloth from Western China

Most of today's fabrics are chemically dyed and woven on mechanical or electronically controlled looms which produce a nearly limitless variety of patterns, colours and textures. A given piece of cloth can have been made in nearly any city in the world. Fabrics have become an international commodity; but this was not always the case.

Throughout history and into modern times, certain people have been readily identified by their cloth. A unique style or pattern can be as effective as language in identifying a tribe or ethnic group. This is certainly true of the Bouyeis of Guizhou Province, known for their traditional blue and white cloth, and the Bai people of Yunnan Province with their special tie-dyed fabric.

Dying and weaving are two of mankind's oldest technologies. In addition to their obvious practical applications, these skills involve art and creativity and are often of religious, totemic or cultural importance. In the two articles that follow, we will learn a bit about both the technology and the meaning of the cloth which the Bai and the Bouyei call their own.



Cloth given by relatives and friends is hung over a half-built house for a pair of soon-to-be Bouyei newlyweds to symbolize auspiciousness and wealth.

Colour Cloth of the Bouyeis

PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY FU YULIANG

Hugged by mountains, Libo is a small county in southern Guizhou chiefly inhabited by the Bouyeis. Every Bouyei family has a loom in its house, and every woman excels at weaving the indigenous blue and white cloth.

The cloth, traditionally indigo, blue and white, is used as the primary material for the Bouyeis' clothing, although many other uses are found for it within the home. In addition, other nationalities in the region use the cloth as well for their own clothing and home decor. All in all, there are about 10,000 looms in the county, producing more than 200,000 rolls of cloth each year.

From childhood, Bouyei girls learn how to weave the indigenous cloth from their mother or older sister. By their teens, girls are already proficient weavers who make use of the slack farming seasons to weave cloth at home. Usually, three to five girls form a group, weaving together not only for company but to exchange weaving tips, the younger learning from the older.

During festivals, Bouyei girls wear their best dresses made from cloth they have woven. So important is weaving to these people, that some boys set a girl's weaving technique as the criterion for choosing a spouse, while the girls, as a sign of their sincere love, give their lover a piece of cloth they have made. Therefore, the indigenous cloth is not only a handicraft of the Bouyei people as a whole but also a precious "love token" among young Bouyei men and women.

The designs are generally straight lines running vertically, horizontally or at an angle. A whole piece of cloth is usually designed with a large square frame filled with smaller frames, all simple, straight-lined and abstract. However, designs on some bed coverings, quilt covers, tablecloths and sofa coatings are exaggerated and bizarre images. The base colours of the cloth fall into three categories: blue designs against a white background, white designs against a blue background, and designs woven with thick white and blue threads appearing on both sides of the cloth.

Each roll of cloth is ten metres long while the width varies according to the needs of the user. Now, quite a number of minority nationalities use the Bouyeis' cloth as gifts to friends and relatives, as wedding gifts and as an auspicious gift offered to the owner of a house under construction.

In recent years, the Bouyei cloth has been exported to such countries as Japan, France and Singapore.



Surrounded by cloth of more humble colours, this colourful pile makes a valuable dowry.



This finely woven pattern will soon be the back of a garment.

Tie-Dyed Cloth of Yunnan Province

PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY MA DAHAI

Tie-dyeing is one of the ancient folk arts of China still practised today in Yunnan Province. According to historical records, wax-dyeing, clip-dyeing and twist-dyeing, the latter being today's tie-dyeing, were all popular techniques during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). During the Song Dynasty (960-1297), the dyed cloth was exclusively used for army garments and guards' uniforms. Common people were not only forbidden to wear tie-dyed cloth, they were forbidden to make it as well. As a result, the tie-dyeing techniques were gradually lost through most of China. However, several national minorities in remote areas inherited and preserved this handicraft introduced from the central part of China.

One of the national minorities still practising the art of tie-dyeing are the Bais who live in the Bai Autonomous Prefecture of Dali in western Yunnan. For centuries, these people have tie-dyed cloth from which they make bed coverings, curtains, scarves and clothing.

To tie-dye cloth is not an especially difficult process, but it is tedious and time consuming. First, designs are drawn on a cloth of white cotton or a cotton-linen blend, and then the designs are stitched together into knots — a process called "tying flowers". Once stitched, the cloth is placed into the dyeing vats. The dyestuff, which produces a deep and rich indigo, is made from a local medicinal plant used not only as a dye but as a disinfectant as well.

After the cloth has been submerged in the dye for a while, it turns yellow, at which time it is taken out of the dye and air dried. This oxygenation process turns the cloth slightly blue. The dyeing and drying processes are repeated over and over again until the desired shade is reached. Eight dippings produce a light blue, sixteen dippings produce a medium blue, and it takes twenty-four dippings to produce a dark blue.

When the colouring process is complete, the knots are untied, disclosing the pattern. All that remains is to wash the cloth. As the dyestuff cannot penetrate into the tied parts, white patterns appear against the dark blue background with their edges, those parts of the patterns nearest to the background, slightly coloured in various shades of blue. The fabric looks like a painting.

In Dali, tie-dyeing is now a commercial venture, and the Zhouchen Tie-Dyeing Factory, the main producer of this cloth, has updated the stitch method of tie-dyeing and increased the number of available stitch designs from three to eighteen. With the development of new stitch styles, flower designs can now be chosen from among more than 480 motifs. Besides the basic designs composed of dots, irregular loops and simple geometric patterns, animal and plant images such as bees, butterflies, plum blossoms, birds and insects are also used.

For a lengthy part of its history, tie-dyed cloth was used by some national minorities for their everyday clothing. Now, this fabric, with its special techniques and its rich history, has moved well beyond the confines of remote areas. It is now more and more appreciated by young people in the cities as well as by clothing designers and manufacturers in other countries. At present, what was once a local handicraft can now be found in Japan, Australia and other countries in Europe and America. 

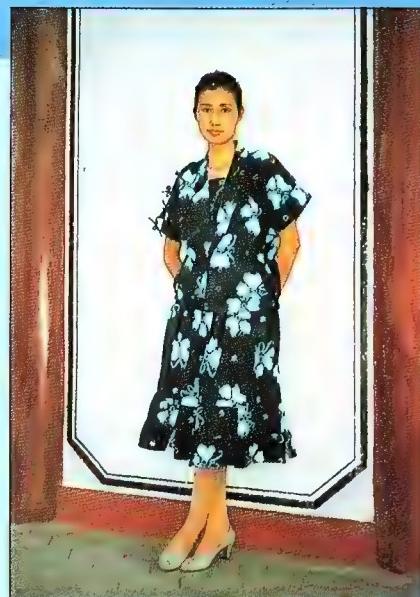
Translated by Gu Weizhou



Designs, drawn on the white cloth, are being stitched into knots in preparation for tie-dyeing.



Washing the cloth after the colouring process is complete.



A modern dress made from tie-dyed cloth.



The drying process is repeated again and again.



With a stack of tie-dyed cloth behind them, these Bai girls show off a couple of their favourite products.

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

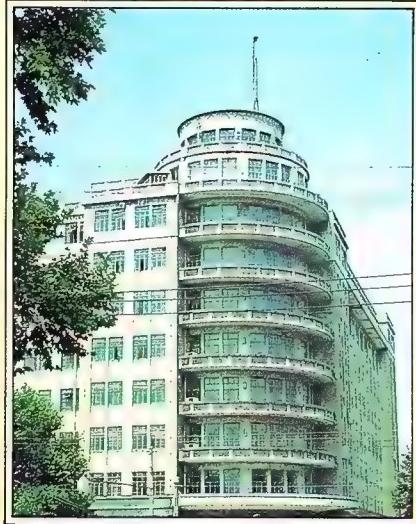


Hotels in the Provinces Along the Route of the Long March

Following is a list of hotels in the major city of each province mentioned in the Long March articles earlier in this issue. Included here is information about each hotel such as rates, address and contact number.

Nanchang, Jiangxi

Jiangxi Hotel
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GM: Huang Xianzhong 221 rooms and suites
Rates: double FEC 120-150 yuan, suite FEC 160-300 yuan
Located in city centre, 35 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Nanchang Guesthouse

Nanchang Guesthouse
南昌賓館
No. 2 Bayi Ave, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330003
Tel: 64811

Qing Shan Hu Hotel

青山湖賓館
No. 31 Fuzhou Rd, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330006
Tel: 221162 Telex: 95007 QSH CN Fax: 221447
GM: Duan Youzhi 242 rooms and suites
Rates: double FEC 70-120 yuan, suite FEC 120-290 yuan
Distances from: city centre 1 km, airport 30 km, railway station 3.5 km

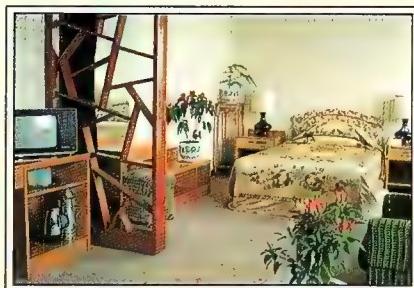
Xiangshan Hotel

象山賓館
No. 170 North Xiangshan Rd, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330008
Tel: 51402, 772096
GM: Yang Zhihua 87 room and suites
Rates: single FEC 45 yuan, double FEC 60 yuan, suite FEC 70-90 yuan
Distances from: airport 35 km, railway station 3 km

Changsha, Hunan

Huatian Hotel
華天大酒店
Changsha, Hunan 410001

Lotus Hotel
芙蓉賓館



East Wuyi Rd, Changsha, Hunan 410001

Qingyuan Hotel (No. 1 Building)

青園賓館(1棟)
No. 2 Qingyuan Rd, Changsha, Hunan 410004
Tel: 34817

Xiang Jiang Hotel

湘江賓館
No. 2 Zhongshan Rd, Changsha, Hunan 410005
Tel: 408888, 46888 Telex: 98131 XIANG CN
Fax: 0731-48285
GM: Fei Xiangyao 298 rooms and suites
Rates: single FEC 110 yuan, double FEC 80-130 yuan,
suite FEC 300-1,000 yuan
Distances from: airport 28 km, railway station 4 km

Guilin, Guangxi

Dahua Hotel
達華大酒店
No. 171 South Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001

Friendship Hotel

友誼飯店
No. 47 Chongxin Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Grand Hotel Guilin

錦桂飯店
No. 15 Zhishan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Guilin Garland Hotel

桂林凱悅酒店
No. 86 South Zhongshan R, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Tel: 332510, 332511, 332512 Telex: 48438 GLGAR CN
Fax: (0773) 333340
GM: William Wong
300 rooms Rates: US\$ 25-40
Distances from: Airport: 12 km, railway station 0.3 km

Guilin Grand Hotel

桂林大酒店
No. 1 North Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001
Tel: 223568, 224655

Guilin Hotel

桂林飯店
No. 25 Zhongshan Zhong Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Guilin Osmanthus Hotel

丹桂大酒店(西樓)
No. 451 South Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002
Tel: 332261, 334300

Guilin Overseas Chinese Mansion

桂林華僑大廈
No. 39 South Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541000
Tel: 335753

Guilin Pine Garden Resort

松園度假村
No. 9 Lijiang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004
Tel: 442311

Guilin Riverside Resort

桂林漓苑酒店
Anjiazhou, Guilin, Guangxi 541002
Tel: (0773)- 222291 Telex: 48457 CLRSR CN Fax: (0773)- 224973
GM: P.H.Yu
222 rooms and 9 suites
Rates: double US\$ 65, suites US\$ 110-115
Distances from: city centre 1 km, airport 18 km, railway station 1 km

Guilin Royal Garden Hotel

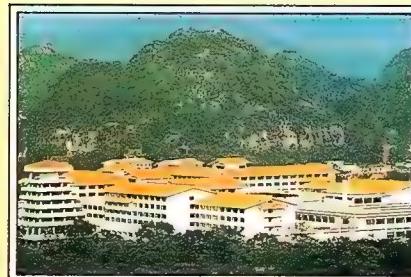
帝苑酒店
Yanjiang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004
Tel: 442411, 443611

Guilin Sightseeing Hotel

觀光酒店
No. 20 Lijiang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004

Guishan Hotel

桂山大酒店



Chuanshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004
Tel: 443388

Guixing Hotel

桂星酒店
Sanlidian, Guilin, Guangxi 541000
Tel: 445400

Holiday Inn Guilin

桂林假日酒店
No. 14 South Ronghu Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002
Tel: 223950

Hong Kong Hotel Guilin

桂林香江飯店

No. 8 West Huanchenyi Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Tel: 333889

International Hotel

國際飯店

Lijiang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004

Jiashan Hotel

甲山飯店

Lishi Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001

Li River Hotel

漓江飯店

No. 1 North Shanhui Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001

Tel: 222881

Ronghu Hotel

桂林榕湖梅花庄

No. 17 North Ronghu Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001

Tel: 223811

Sheraton Guilin Hotel

文華大酒店

Binjiang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541004

Tel: 225588

Taihe Hotel

泰和飯店

No. 427 South Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Tel: 335504

GM: Huang Peiyang

46 rooms and suites Rates: double FEC 55 yuan, suite FEC 130 yuan

Distances from: city centre 0.5 km, airport 13 km, airport 13 km, railway station 1 km

Tai Lian Hotel

桂林台聯酒店(北樓)

No. 102 Zhongshan Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541002

Tel: 222888 Telex: 48453 GLTLH CN Fax: 226251

GM: Albert Wai

180 rooms and suites

Rates: single FEC 120 yuan, double FEC 150 yuan, suite FEC 220 yuan

Distances from: airport 12.5 km, railway station 3 km

Hotel Universal Guilin

桂林環球大酒店

No. 1 East Jiefang Rd, Guilin, Guangxi 541001

Tel: 228228 Telex: 48475 GLHUG CN Fax: 223868

GM: Ricky Leung

229 rooms and suites

Rates: double US\$ 68, superior US\$ 84, suite US\$ 108

Distances from: airport 12 km, railway station 4 km

Guizhou, Guiyang

Bajiaoyan Hotel

八角岩飯店

Beijing Rd, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001

Guizhou Plaza Hotel

貴陽金葉大酒店

No. 2 East Yan'an Rd, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001

Tel: 625888, 627048 Telex: 66001 PLAZA CN Fax: (0851) 622994

GM: Wu Tie

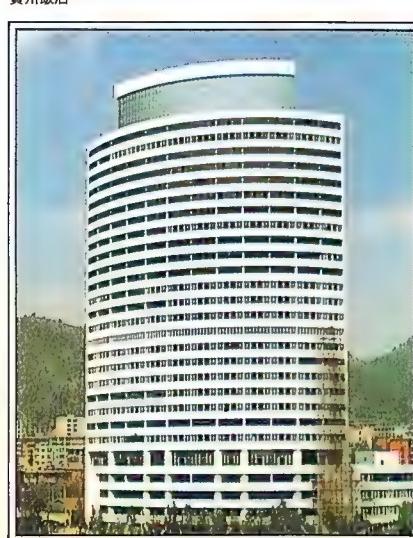
173 rooms and suites

Rates: single FEC 100 yuan, double FEC 120 yuan, suite 250-280 yuan, presidential suite FEC 1,500 yuan

Distances from: city centre 1 km, airport 36 km, railway station 3 km

Guizhou Park Hotel

貴州飯店



Golden Peacock Hotel

金孔雀飯店

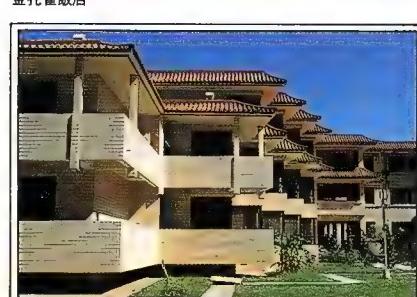


Photo by Wang Miao

Daguan Park, Kunming, Yunnan 650032

Tel: 41334, 42512

GM: Wang Weiping

Green Lake Hotel

翠湖賓館

No. 6 South Cuihu (Green Lake) Rd, Kunming, Yunnan 650031

Tel: 22192

174 rooms and suites

The hotel faces the Green Lake Park

Kunming Hotel

昆明飯店

145 East Dongfeng Rd, Kunming, Yunnan 650051

Tel: 22063, 22240 Telex: 64058 KMHTL CN

262 rooms and suites

Lian Yun Hotel

連雲賓館

13 Yuan Tong St, Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 22532, 28197

Nan Jiang Hotel

南江賓館

41 West Dongfeng Rd, Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 41518

GM: Liu Yong Lu

Nan Yao Hotel

南窑大酒店

Ming Tong Rd, Southern Railway Station, Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 35017

GM: Shu Jian

Spring City Hotel

春城酒樓

No. 6-9 West Dongfeng Rd, Kunming, Yunnan 650031

Tel: 23962, 24635

GM: Wang Gui Zheng

56 standard rooms and 5 suites

Xiyuan Hotel

西園飯店

Western Suburbs of Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 9969

10 rooms in the villa in inner section, 20 rooms in outer section

Faces the Dianchi Lake

Yunnan Hotel

雲南飯店

No. 83 West Dongfeng Rd, Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 25533

GM: Liu Jiaxiang

350 rooms

Yun Xin Hotel

雲新飯店

South Huancheng Rd, Kunming, Yunnan

Tel: 35351, 31163

GM: Tang Gui Rong

Quanzhou was a lighthouse to the sailing ships bringing spices, jewels, and rare medicines to the wealthy of China for four centuries from the Song Dynasty (960-1279) through the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). The exchange of goods, silk, tea, and porcelain going out on the return ships developed a strong economy with a high standard of living for the merchants and artisans who developed Quanzhou as a cultural centre of China. The city was famous for its puppet plays, opera, musical styles and as a place for the literati to gather.

Early Silk Road

The Maritime Silk Road developed prior to the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) when the mouth of the Jinjiang River, the site of present-day Quanzhou, was first inhabited by the Yue people.

By the height of the Roman Empire, extensive trade had been regularized between Rome, China and Southeast Asia. The Roman ships did not go the full route; it was Arabian sailors who linked these routes to the wealth of Rome. Once they learned to use the monsoon winds and changed from galleys to sailing ships, Arabic ships, and for a time, Roman ships, took over the westernmost part of the route from Alexandria to the coast of India. From there, Indian ships

The Maritime Silk Road and Quanzhou

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY P.G. MISTY SHEEHAN



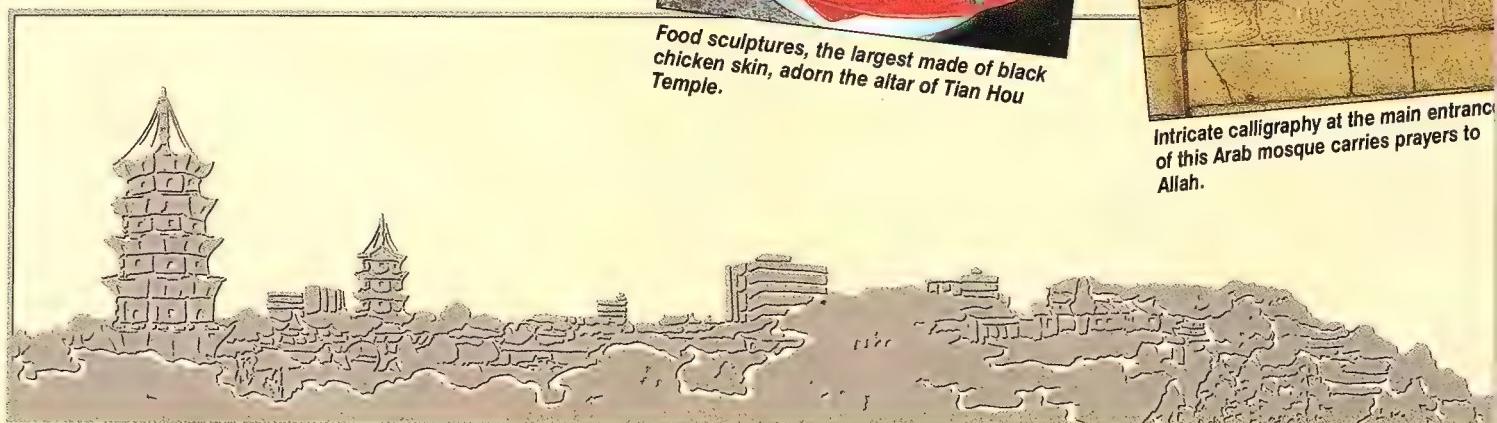
Luoyang, still colourful, site of an ancient bridge (by Klaus Hülbrock)



Food sculptures, the largest made of black chicken skin, adorn the altar of Tian Hou Temple.



Intricate calligraphy at the main entrance of this Arab mosque carries prayers to Allah.



carried goods to the Malay Peninsula where they were transported by land, and, by the fifth century, carried by sea through the Straits of Malacca; then Southeast Asian and Chinese ships carried the goods up the coast of China.

Records of the Roman Empire tell how important the spices, scented woods, resins and cloth were to them. *The Geography of Strabo* (63 B.C.-21 A.D.) tells of the increase in trade for pepper and Chinese and Indian cloth from 20 ships a year to expeditions of 120 ships at one time by the reign of Augustus. Pliny the Elder, in his *Natural History*, complained of the drain of precious metals to pay for these eastern luxuries.

Buddhist monks travelled to India to study at the Buddhist monasteries there, collect Buddhist

texts for translation, and visit the places where Sakyamuni lived and preached. One such monk, Fa Xian, returned by sea from India in the fifth century passing through Sri Lanka, Nicobar, and Sumatra on his way to Guangzhou. He wrote: "The ocean was very vast without a coast. The direction could not be told and recognized. The sailing depended on observing the sun, the moon, and the stars."

Tang Dynasty

The increased wealth of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) helped develop both the land and maritime routes. In 711, Quanzhou was officially recognized as a prefecture by decree of the Emperor. The Kai Yuan Temple was the major

cultural achievement in Quanzhou, which developed importance as it increasingly became an entrepot. Already literati were choosing to settle here, and the puppet performances and opera were developing.

The Maritime Silk Road is described in Arabian geographical texts, and many Moslems lived in Guangzhou, the major port. In 748, a Hainan Island chief boasted of seizing two or three Persian merchantmen a year, taking the goods and making the passengers his "servants".

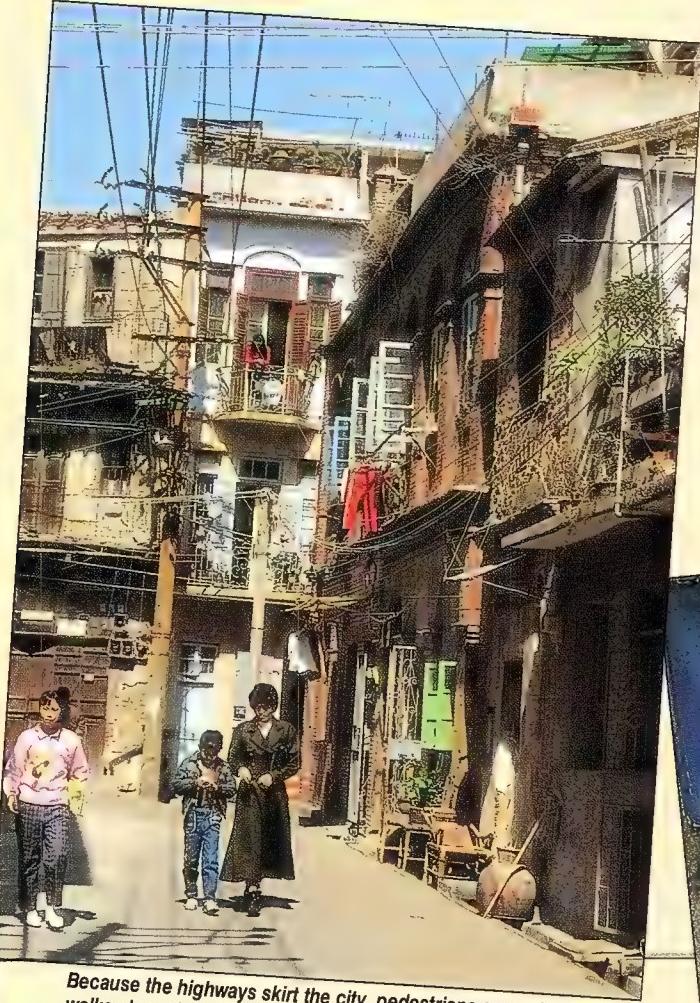
A Tang Dynasty Guanyin was discovered in Thailand as were porcelains from Hunan, Henan and Zhejiang. Most porcelain there came from Guangdong — Meixian, Heshan, the Pearl River Delta and the Leizhou Peninsula — showing the importance of Guangzhou as a port in this period.

Navigation relied on star charts and sailing relied on the monsoon winds. Ships could leave for the south from January to March on the north winds and return between April and September on the winds of the southern monsoons.

Southeast Asian coastal states became commercial centres. There, trading goods harvested from or manufactured in the hinterlands were traded to the representatives of the shipping merchants who shipped them abroad. The ports of destination became the first settlements for overseas Chinese who served as middlemen for the shipping barons.

Song Dynasty

In the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the Chinese capital shifted to Hangzhou closer to



Because the highways skirt the city, pedestrians can enjoy leisurely walks along the narrow streets.



This stele commemorates the visit to Quanzhou by Zheng He, a fifteenth century explorer (by Klaus Hülbrock).



the sea, and, as the people fled unrest in the north, the centre of population shifted to the eastern and southern seaboards. Support industries for shipping, such as porcelain kilns and ship building, provided jobs for the new arrivals and residents alike. The Emperor, Gaozong (reign dates 1127-1162), encouraged the development of the sea trade, saying, "The profits from maritime commerce are very great. If properly managed, they can be millions (of strings of cash). Is it not better than taxing the people?"

Religious activity flourished along with commerce. The Tian Hou Temple in Quanzhou was completed in the Song Dynasty for those engaged in this trade. The city boasted of a Taoist complex around the statue of Laozi carved in the rock on a hillside north of the city. The Kai Yuan Temple was an important Buddhist centre at this time, and the Ashab Mosque was built by the Islamic people, an increasingly important sub-culture in the area. The Li Yuan Opera was crystallized during this fruitful period.

As Chinese ships began to use the magnetic compass (1090) and became larger and stronger with waterproof bulkheads, staterooms and even wineshops on board, they gradually began to control the sea trade. The Song ship in the Exhibition Hall in Quanzhou is an example of the size and sophistication of the Chinese ships. It could carry 200 tons of goods in thirteen waterproof compartments. The Chinese had trade links with over 100 countries, trading as far

away as Sri Lanka and the Malabar Coast of West India, usurping the control of Arab sailors.

Song porcelain, the major trade item, has been found in more than thirteen European, African and Asian areas. Southeast Asian ports served as transfer points for the real market in Arabia. Porcelain discovered in Thailand from this period switches from mainly Guangdong kilns to kilns in Fujian, illustrating the increasing significance of Quanzhou.

Trade had to go through Guangzhou, Hangzhou or Mingzhou, at first, to be taxed, which hindered the development of trade in Quanzhou as the ships would miss the monsoon winds if they stopped in Guangzhou. Lack of international status did not discourage Quanzhou traders, however, and much illicit trade flowed in and out of the port. In 1060, the port was described as "clogged with foreign ships, and their goods were piled like mountains". Foreign merchant captains were said to bring in as many as 20 ships at a time for trade.

In 1087, Quanzhou was finally designated as an international port with the establishment of the Bureau of Trading Junks to regulate incoming ships and collect fees and tolls. By the early 12th century, government revenue from trade had doubled.

Yuan Dynasty

Quanzhou was the number one port in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Medicines, silk, tea and porcelain left Quanzhou in return for

perfume, pearls, jewels, other medicines, pepper, cloves, nutmeg, sandalwood, ivory and rhinoceros horn. In 1349, the ports ranged from Japan to Singapore.

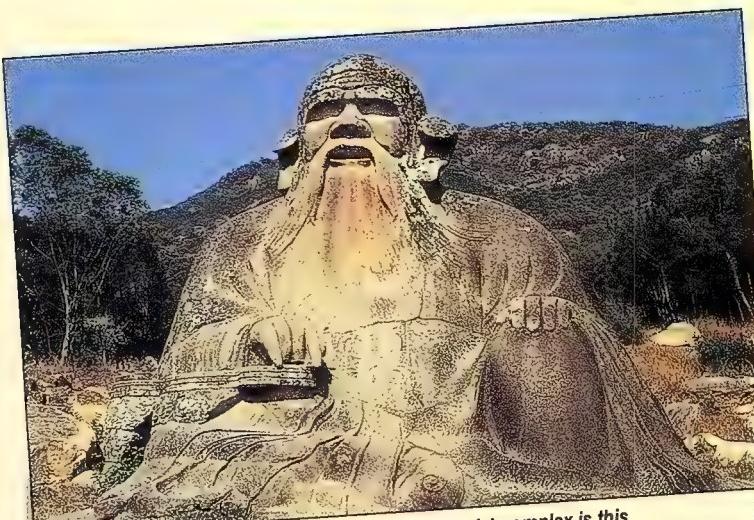
Marco Polo, escorting a princess from the Mongol court to her new home in Persia, described the port of Zaiton (Quanzhou) as a noble and handsome city celebrated for its shipping. He wrote that the city was loaded with merchandise that would afterward be distributed through every part of the province. He thought it impossible to accurately convey the concourse of merchants or the accumulation of goods in the city, which, he said, "is one of the two ports in the world with the greatest flow of merchandise".

Ming Dynasty

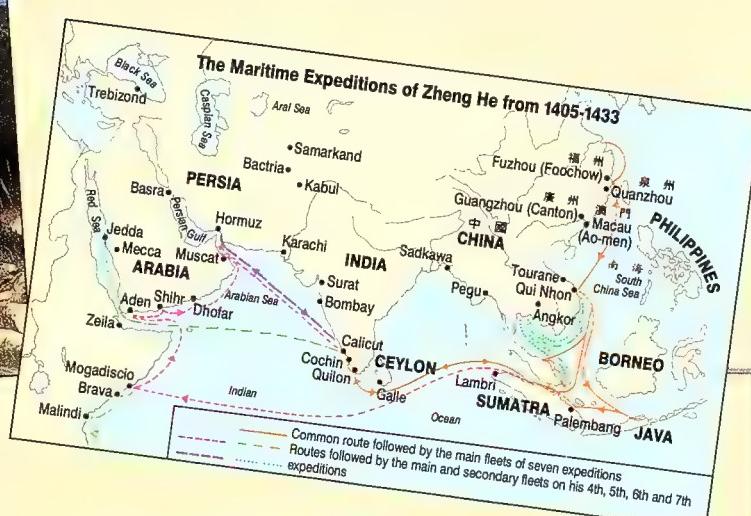
The high point of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) at sea were the explorations of the Moslem eunuch, Zheng He. In his seven expeditions, from 1405 to 1433, he visited thirty lands and went as far as Africa. Ninety years before Columbus, he led much larger expeditions a greater distance.

Quanzhou has a stele he left at the Lingshan Tombs before embarking on his fifth voyage. While in Quanzhou, he also commissioned the restoration of the Tian Hou Temple.

His adventures did not inspire the Ming government, however, which became increasingly insular, enacting prohibitions against trade. All private trade was forbidden. External trade was monopolized by the government, and only ships from tributary governments were allowed in. Smuggling became the means of trade, but even that was limited due to the weakening of the necessary infrastructure. The harbor in Quanzhou, praised by Marco Polo and Ibn Batuta, was allowed to silt up, and Guangzhou, further from the watchful eyes of the central government, again gained ascendancy as the number one port.



All that remains of an old Taoist complex is this enormous carving of Laozi.



QINGDAO ANGLING

PHOTOS & TEXT BY SUN LIZHI

The beach was crowded with people watching lion dances and the release of homing pigeons as the International Angling Festival got underway in Qingdao, Shandong Province.

A boat full of sports fishermen from the United States, Japan, Finland, Australia, Italy, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, Canada, West Germany, France, Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong, as well as participants from China, set out from the beach to the fishing grounds located east of Jiaozhou Bay. There they transferred to a flotilla of forty small boats and dispersed each to their chosen patch.

It was just after the Mid-Autumn Festival, towards the end of September. This is the best time of year in Qingdao, when the weather is neither too hot nor too cold, and conditions are perfect for fishing. The warm sun shone on the calm sea, which reflected the cloudless sky.

Qingdao is located on the southern coast of the Shandong Peninsula between the Huanghai (Yellow Sea) and Jiaozhou Bay. The latter, surrounded by land on three



sides, stretches over an area of five hundred square kilometres and is rich in marine life. Its fish, prawns, shrimps and shellfish are famed for their size and flavour.

Having prepared their fishing tackle, baited their lines and so on, all the anglers settled down to wait, some with greater patience than others. But, then, fishing is all about waiting.

I joined a boat of Hongkong participants. After a while, seeing no movement of any sort, I started to make some comment ... and was cut off sharply in mid-sentence by a firm gesture of finger to lips which could only

mean 'Ssssssssh!' The next moment, the rod trembled, the angler's wrist flicked, and a large fish was thrashing around on the floor of the boat.

Lunch at sea consisted of sandwiches plus excellent local Qingdao (Tsingtao) beer and Laoshan Cola. In the very middle of this simple repast, one European contestant staring fixedly at the water started to murmur to himself, then grabbed his rod.... He had hooked a large bass weighing several kilos. Grins and congratulations all round!

His catch seemed to mark a general change of fortune, and the activity was considerable for the rest of the afternoon.

After a whole day at sea, the anglers returned to the beach, proudly showing off their catch in landing nets. That night, the Japanese contingent prepared *sashimi* (delicate raw fish specialities) as their personal contribution to the seafood banquet held in the Bailanghua (White Spray) Restaurant in Qingdao.

The competition lasted four days in all. On the last two days, the participants went further afield, some going west to fish in Ganshui Bay on Xuejia Island. Some even drove one hundred kilometres inland to the Dazeshan Reservoir in Pingdu County, hoping to try their luck with freshwater fish for a change.

At the end of the festival, trophies and medals were presented to the first three in each of three categories: overall weight, number of fish, and heaviest individual fish. **G**

Translated by W. Lau



The Latest Guide to Tourist Attractions in Guizhou

Guizhou, located at the eastern part of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in southwestern China, is one of the provinces on the route of the Long March. It has a number of scenic spots which are easily accessible. Besides the magnificent Huangguoshu Falls, some of China's most extensive karst caves and the Baili Azalea Scenic Area are here. There are also nature reserves such as Mount Fanjing at Tongren, the Maolan primitive karst jungle at Libo, and the recently discovered waterfalls at Chishui.

The cheapest way is to start from Guiyang the provincial capital. There are flights to cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Guilin, Chengdu, Kunming and Haikou. One can also travel by train from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Kunming, Guilin, Chongqing and Chengdu.

Transportation (Hong Kong to Guizhou)

Plane: One should first travel from Hong Kong to Guangzhou and then fly to Guiyang. Starting from April 1 this year, there is at least one flight every day from Baiyun Airport in Guangzhou to Guiyang. The flight normally takes about one and a half hours. Passenger flight tickets are sold at FEC¥ 295 at the CAAC ticketing office in Guangzhou and about HK\$550 at travel agents in Hong Kong. However, since it is relatively more difficult for travellers to secure a ticket in Guangzhou, one should buy his plane ticket through a travel agent in Hong Kong.

Train: Taking the train (252/253 Guangzhou-Chengdu) from Guangzhou to Guizhou, one can get off in cities other than Guiyang, such as Tongren (at Yuping Station), and visit Jiulong Cave and Mount Fanjing before heading west.

One can also travel via the Beijing-Guangzhou line to Changsha, Hunan, and change at Changsha for trains running along the Hunan-Guizhou line. The latter may be more convenient as there are more trains.

Major Sights

Southeastern Area

Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture Guizhou's minority people make up almost 20% of its population and are concentrated in three autonomous prefectures in the south. The Qiandongnan (Southeastern) Autonomous Prefecture is particu-

larly interesting located as it is where the heights of the Guizhou Plateau gradually run out into the gentler hills of western Hunan; Kaili, its capital city, is one of the best places to see the life of the Miao and Dong people. The prefecture's highest point is Mount Leigong in the Miaoling Range, rising to 2,179 metres, and its lowest point is in Liping County in the southeastern tip of the prefecture, just 137 metres above sea level. The average altitude is around 600 metres, so winters are fairly mild. In January the average temperature is between 4.7 and 7.6°C. The hottest month, July, has temperatures of between 25.6 and 26.9°C, and may rise above 35°C up to nineteen days a year.

The following are some of its sites of interest:

Mount Fanjing Nature Reserve At 2,494 metres above sea level, Mount Fanjing is Guizhou's highest point. It lies between the counties of Jiangkou, Yingjing and Songtao in the northeast of the province. The mountain area covers 567 square kilometres of subtropical forests and is one of China's best natural conservation areas. Rare species of fauna and flora found here include the golden monkey and the dove tree (*Davida involucrata*).

There are long distance buses from Tongren to Jiangkou and from Jiangkou to the nature reserve's management station at Pengxi River.

Wuyang Gorges A general name for the Zhujia, Longwang and Xia Gorges which extend for thirty-five kilometres along the River Wuyang from Shuibing to Zhenyuan. The eastern section is dammed and therefore has higher water levels, while the western section is characterized by rapids and deep ravines. The gorges are said to include the grandeur of the karst scenery for which Guizhou is famous.

Qinglongdong An ancient architectural complex built into Zhonghe Cliff alongside the River Wuyang east of Zhenyuan, this is said to be the 450-year-old ruins of old Zhenyuan.

Wind-and-Weather Bridge at Diping Like drum towers, such bridges are unique to the Dong people. Designed specifically for the prevailing wet weather conditions, they provide shelter and a place to relax. Although the Yongji Bridge at Chengyang in Guangxi is considered the best of its kind, Guizhou boasts examples which are known for the

simple beauty of their architecture. The all-wood bridge at Diping in Liping County is seventy metres long, four metres wide, and has three sections.

Wanfochanglang Cave Stretching for over sixteen kilometres at Cengong in the northern part of the prefecture, this is one of the most recently opened karst cave systems in Guizhou. To enter one of its sections, you need to climb a rope ladder down a 24-metre-high cliff!

Jiulong (Nine Dragon) Cave At Mount Liulong in eastern Tongren. It is one of Guizhou's most magnificent karst caves.

South Area

Maolan Karst Jungle Nature Reserve: It is about 26 kilometres south of Libo County. One can travel from Kaili via Sandu to Libo. The area is a well-preserved sub-tropical karst topographical landscape. There are more than 500 species of trees including the ginkgo tree, a living fossil, and rare species like Chinese catalpa. The area is also the home of wildlife including musk deer, rhesus monkeys, river deer, Chinese tigers, wild bulls, and white monkeys.

Guiyang Area

Qianling Park At the northwestern corner of the city. One can take the long distance bus from Libo to Dushan and change to a train running on the Guizhou-Guilin Railway for Guiyang. It has more than 1,500 species of plants and over 1,000 types of valuable medicinal herbs. It is also home to a large number of rhesus monkeys and birds.

Baihua Lake About 22 kilometres northwest of Guiyang and can be reached by bus which has more frequent runs during tourist season. The lake has more than 100 islands, home to several thousand birds including cranes, mandarin ducks, lake gulls and wild geese.

Hongfeng Lake About 33 kilometres west of Guiyang. There is special coach from Guiyang bus station. The fare is Rmb ¥ 2. With a surface area of 57 square kilometres, it is the biggest man-made lake in Guizhou. It has 178 islands and features karst topography.

Western Area

Longgong (Dragon's Palace) Cave at Longtan in Anshun County Twenty-seven kilometres south of Anshun and 132 kilometres from Guiyang, it is filled with subterranean streams. It is entered by boat from Tianchi (Heavenly Pond) through an entrance into a hillside. The system is around fifteen kilometres long, 4.5 kilometres of which are accessible, and comprises over ninety dry

and water-filled caverns with cascades and lakes.

Daji Cave At Mount Zhijin, 148 kilometres from Guiyang and fifty kilometres northwest of Anshun, it runs for about thirteen kilometres, 3.5 kilometres of which are currently open to visitors. Its forty-seven caverns contain more than forty different types of limestone formations — a wonderland for connoisseurs of stalagmites and stalactites.

Huangguoshu Falls Probably Guizhou's most famous sight, the falls are situated on the River Baishui between Zhenning and Guanling, 150 kilometres from Guiyang.

Several major groups of cascades occur over an area of 450 square kilometres, the largest consisting of eighteen falls. The Great Huangguoshu Falls, seventy-four metres high and eighty-one metres wide, are an impressive spectacle at any time of year but especially during the rainy season from May to October.

Anlong Dam There are long distance buses leaving every day from Anshun to the dam which is about 500 metres northeast of Anlong County. One can also catch buses

passing the Huangguoshu Falls. The dam, built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), is lined with willow trees and features a 53,000 square kilometre lake covered with lotus.

Maling River Valley Scenic Area It is located six kilometres northeast of Xingyi, the capital city of the Qianxinan (Southwestern Guizhou) Bouyei and Miao Autonomous Prefecture. There are long distance buses running between Anlong and Xingyi. The valley stretches over a distance of fifteen kilometres between sheer cliffs in the suburbs of Weining County.

Lake Caohai It is the biggest natural lake on the Guizhou Highland. It covers a total surface area of about thirty square kilometres, and supports more than 178 species of aquatic plants, over ten different types of fish, and 200 different aquatic micro-organisms. Birds of more than 158 species migrate here every year for the winter.

Baili Azalea Scenic Area Over seventy species of azaleas stretch for tens of kilometres west from Qianxi County. The flowers generally blossom three times a year.

It is 150 kilometres from Guiyang, covering an area of more than 100 square kilometres. A great variety of azaleas can be found in the area with twenty identified species. The time when spring changes into summer is when the different species of azaleas compete for tourists admiration.

The Zunyi Conference Site The city is about 163 kilometres from Guiyang and can be reached by train and buses. Zunyi is a famous historical city. A conference of significance was held there by the Red Army in January 1935. The building where the conference was held has been well preserved.

Shizhang Cave Waterfalls It is about 21 kilometres southeast of Chishui County which is 298 kilometres from Zunyi and can be reached by bus. It is a recently discovered large-scale falls. The water runs through primitive forests and mountain valleys. Among the numerous species of plants is the spinulose fern, a living fossil which is believed to have been a major source of food for dinosaurs. The largest fall drops from a height of 76 metres and measures 80 metres wide.



The Natural Charm of the Five Ranges

In the northern part of Guangdong and Guangxi and the southern part of Hunan and Jiangxi is a vast area of mountains which are actually a chain of five distinct ranges. They are the Dashou, the Qitian, the Mengzhu, the Dupang and the Yuecheng. Chinese geologists refer to them as the Five Ranges. Since they are also located in the southern part of the country, they are also called the Southern Ranges.

To the west of the Five Ranges is the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and to the east the Wuyi Mountains. They stretch over a distance of more than 1,000 kilometres and form the backbone of the fertile southeastern plateau region. They are also the watershed between the Yangtse River and the Pearl River systems. The average height of the mountain region is about 1,000 metres, but there are also peaks over 2,000 metres above sea level.

Major tourist attractions within the Five Ranges region include Mount Jufeng (Nine Peak) of the Qitian Range which has nine precipitous peaks, Mount Yongcai, shaped like a giant sword piercing the sky, is the highest peak of the Dupang Range; and between the mountains of Yuecheng Range on the Hunan-Guangxi border flows twining streams that nurture valleys full of green bamboos. The Dashou Range in northern

Guangdong Province comprises a series of small sandstone mounts some of which look like castles while some resemble simple but elegant pagodas.

The major rivers that flow in the valleys between the mountains include the Dianshui, the Wushui, the Hejiang and the Gongcheng. The Dianshui Valley at the southern rim of the Dashou Range extends northward from Shixing in northern Guangdong to Nanxiong and to Xinfeng in southern Jiangxi. A big portion of the valley region is made up of small mountains and platforms of red sandstone which looks like a gigantic fence of glowing red stone walls standing on the banks of the river. The Wushui Valley next to the Qitian Range, however, has been cut by perpetually running rivers into the Lechang Gorge that stretches out for more than 50 kilometres between mountains. Flowing down the valley between the sheer cliffs is the Wushui River which is sometimes as smooth as the surface of a mirror and sometimes ripples and surges at great speed forming the famous Nine Rapids and Eighteen Shoals. The valley region between the Yuecheng Range and Dupang Range is a natural gateway connecting southern Hunan and Guangxi. The Lingqu Canal, with picturesque banks lined with trees and bamboos,

was later built in the valley.

The best time of the year to visit the Five Ranges is between Spring and Summer. During that period, not only the mountains and rivers put on special charm, the weather in the region also shows amazing changes: at the crack of dawn, the mountains and valleys are hidden in the morning mist with the higher peak protruding above the mist like an island floating on the surface of a vast ocean of clouds; at around 10 o'clock in the morning, as the mist recedes, the sun shows its face in a clear blue sky; in the afternoon, the cloudless sky could suddenly turn stormy stirring with wind and rain; as quickly as they appear, the dark clouds vanish revealing the brightly shining sun. After the brief shower, the Five Ranges appear sparklingly clean and refreshed.

The climate of the Five Ranges region is ideal for plants to flourish. In a forest in the Mengzhu Range in southern Hunan, for instance, the interlocking branches and leaves of the trees have formed a huge umbrella through which light cannot penetrate.

The wild animals living in the mountains of the Five Ranges included tigers, clouded leopards, musk deer, tufted deer which grow a patch of dark hair on the top of the forehead, rhesus monkeys and porcupines.



The women of the Dong nationality in Guizhou learn the arts of embroidery and knitting in childhood, producing all manner of useful and decorative items, the most unusual of which is a hat adorned with silver bells and monks. The hats, worn by newborns and babies up to about one year old, symbolize good fortune, happiness and longevity. In recent years, with the improvements in their incomes, the Dong enjoy showing off their wealth with various silver decorations, and some of the "monk" hats may have more than twenty silver monks on them.

In addition to silver trim, the hats are also finely embroidered. Some have a flat top stitched with silver flowers and bells with the embroidered edges matched in red lace; some are decorated with monk figures on the front and embroidery at the back, inlaid with embroidered edges and flowers. Other hats have monks placed in a row linked together with silver beads and still others have a double line of monks in various postures. The hats are individually shaped and decorated, and each one is beautiful.

The origin of these hats lies in legend, which also tells us that the Dongs were

Monk Figure Hats

of the Dongs



already famous for their fine embroidery and knitting as far back as the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). As for these particular hats, there is a legend about them also.

There was a Dong girl renowned for her fine needlework. One day, she was embroidering a colourful phoenix when a monk came up to her. He watched and watched as she worked, and he could not tear himself away. Finally, she was moved to ask him why he stayed there for such a long time. "You are doing a heavenly work. If you could embroider us monks onto your cloth, I assure you, your children would have a long life."

Suddenly, there was a blast of wind, and the monk vanished. The girl travelled far and wide, asking silversmiths to cast one hundred silver monks, and, after one hundred days, they succeeded. Since then, the monks have been symbolic of good fortune and longevity among the Dong, and today they are more popular than ever. C

Wang Zhuxuan

Translated by Gu Weizhou

Zunyi – City of Wine

The Zunyi region was an ancient part of the Kingdom of Yelang which prospered during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) in southwest China. Western Guizhou Province was part of Yelang while eastern Guizhou belonged to the State of Chu. Yelang was destroyed by the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24). There is a well-known Chinese proverb describing people as being as "ignorant and presumptuous as the King of Yelang" who imagined his small kingdom to be the equal of the vast Han empire. Zunyi is a historic Chinese city and the second biggest city in Guizhou. It is a political, economic and cultural centre as well as a communications hub in northern Guizhou.

A Temperate Climate

The Zunyi region is situated on a high plateau in Guizhou (844 metres above sea level), but the winters are not very cold. The median morning temperature in January is around 2°C in the city of Zunyi, and there are fewer than thirteen days of frost per annum. The summers are cool, 22-25°C on average, with only 2.6 days in which the tem-

perature exceeds 35°C, quite different from Changsha or Hunan.

Hot Springs

There are hot springs situated forty kilometres northeast of the county seat of Xifeng County (south of Zunyi) and they are certainly worth a visit. The springs serve a number of sanitaria at the foot of the Tiantai Mountains where travellers come for treatment for rheumatism, hypertension, cardiac problems and other health disorders. The temperature of the hot springs water is between 53° and 56°C. A bus departs each day for the springs from Guiyang and Zunyi.

The Land of Maotai

One can find excellent wines and liquors in the Zunyi region. The Chishui (Red Water) River, which flows through the area and joins the Yangtze at Hejiang in Sichuan, is also known as the "River of Savoury Wines" for the wines produced

along its banks. Although sorghum is the main ingredient of each of them, they vary according to the other grains and fruits which are added during the fermentation process. These include: maize, wheat, sugar cane, mandarin oranges, glutinous rice and sweet potato.

The most celebrated drink is Maotai which comes from the town of the same name situated on the upper reaches of the Chishui River near Renhuai. Maotai is a very strong distilled liquor made from sorghum and wheat. Fermentation takes from nine to ten months. Then it is placed in an earthen crock where it is aged for four years before being sold. Some, however, is aged for as long as ten or twenty years.

Two other wines famous in the region are Xishui liquor, sorghum based and very fragrant, and Dongjiu liquor, also made of sorghum but with other grains and a large number of Chinese medical herbs added in. C

Average Climatic Conditions in Zunyi City

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Temperature (°C)	4.2	5.8	10.7	15.8	19.4	22.4	25.3	24.4	21.0	15.9	11.0	6.5
Rainfall (mm)	22.3	21.7	37.7	95.3	160.7	195.6	142.8	128.7	100.2	109.9	57.5	25.6

A Few Days in Yangshuo

Yangshuo is a charming little town situated on the bank of the Lijiang River, sixty kilometres south of Guilin in Guangxi, a region famous for its eerily shaped karsts which have often been depicted in Chinese painting.

Take the boat at Guilin and enjoy the splendid scenery as you go downstream to Yangshuo. Arriving in the afternoon, you can escape the tourist flow and rest for a couple of days in this charming and peaceful city.

The town is a special treat for backpackers and others who are not part of a tour. Here you can find rest, relaxation and a warm welcome. Small eating houses cater to the individual traveller, and you can even find tasty banana pancakes in one of the local restaurants.

The local market is lively and interesting. You can easily rent bicycles to visit the market, rice paddies or some of the nearby villages as this is an area where you can freely walk or ride through the Chinese countryside.

Also recommended are visits to the environs of Xingping, an ancient market town on the Lijiang River, and the town of Puli.

In Yangshuo, you can accompany night fishermen who do their fishing with the help of lanterns and their trained cormorants, or you can walk through the town's many antique stores which sell a wide variety of batiks and masks.

Lodgings

Yangshuo offers a number of hotels and small inns at good prices. The best hotel is the rustic Yangshuo Hotel. The rooms have air conditioning and attached bathrooms. The price is around 60 yuan, but it should be verified prior to your arrival. You can also find accommodations at the Good Companion Holiday Inn or at the Xilangshan Hotel where a room costs 16 yuan but guests must use a public bathroom.

Transportation

Plane: Guangzhou-Guilin (HK\$330 one way) or Hong Kong-Guilin (HK\$880 each way). From Guilin, take the boat to Yangshuo (about 4 hours) or take a bus.

Boat: Hong Kong (Tsim Sha Tsui) to Wuzhou on the Guandong-Guangxi border (HK\$250 each way). From there, take the bus to Guilin and then to Yangshuo.

Bus: Motor coach from Guangzhou to Guilin (10 hours).



Bus Service from Guiyang/Kaili/Zunyi in Guizhou Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Guizhou — Zunyi	08:40/11:00	163	Xifeng
Guizhou — Chishui	07:00	464	Xifeng, Renhuai
Guizhou — Kaili	07:20/07:40	194	Guiding, Machangping, Majiang
Guizhou — Huangping	07:00/07:40	196	Guiding, Machangping, Majiang
Kaili — Liping	06:30/12:00	217	—
Kaili — Conjiang	06:30	252	—
Kaili — Huangping	07:00/07:30	77	Chong'anjiang
Kaili — Huangping	14:00	77	—
Kaili — Jianhe	12:30/14:00	98	Taijiang
Kaili — Jinping	06:30/07:30	239	Taijiang, Sansui, Tianzhu
Zunyi — Chishui	06:30/07:00	298	Tongzi, Xishui

Bus Service from Kunming/Zhaotong in Yunnan Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Kunming — Zhenxiong	08:00	647	Xuanwei
Kunming — Zhaotong	08:00	568	Xuanwei
Kunming — Zhaotong	08:00	383	Huize
Zhaotong — Kunming	07:30	475	Jiangdi, Dongchuan
Zhaotong — Kunming	07:00	568	Xuanwei
Zhaotong — Xuanwei	07:30	298	Weining
Zhaotong — Xuanwei	07:00	271	—
Zhaotong — Kunming	07:30/08:00	568	Xuanwei
Zhaotong — Zhenxiong	08:00	265	Niuchang

Bus Service from Nanchang/Ganzhou in Jiangxi Province

Route	Departure	Distance (km)	Main Station
Nanchang — Ganzhou	05:45 — 19:00 (13 runs)	429	Xingan, Taihe, Suichuan
Nanchang — Xingguo	05:40	346	Lintang, Zhangshu, Yongfeng
Nanchang — Yudu	05:40	421	Nancheng, Ningdu
Nanchang — Ruijin	05:45	410	Liantang, Nancheng
Nanchang — Shicheng	05:50	333	Linchuan, Nancheng
Nanchang — Ningdu	06:15	325	Nancheng, Guangchang
Nanchang — Yongxin	06:35	318	Liantang, Zhangshu, Ji'an
Nanchang — Jishui	08:05	196	Zhangshu, Xingan
Nanchang — Huichang	05:35	456	Nancheng, Nanfeng, Ruijin
Ganzhou — Guangzhou	05:30	493	Dayu, Nanxiong, Conghua
Ganzhou — Jinggangshan	06:50	183	Shadi, Suichuan
Ganzhou — Zhangshu	06:30	341	Suichuan, Ji'an, Xingan
Ganzhou — Ruijin	05:55/11:10/12:40	149	Huanglong, Xijiang
Ganzhou — Ningdu	06:05/10:00/12:35	163	Yinkeng
Ganzhou — Dayu	07:15/12:20/14:40	88	Tankou, Nankang, Xincheng
Ganzhou — Xingguo	06:37 — 15:15 (6 runs)	81	Jiangkou
Ganzhou — Yudu	06:40 — 15:20 (6 runs)	66	Jiangkou
Ganzhou — Shicheng	07:20	224	Yudu, Xijiang, Ruijin

Islamic Culture Tour in Yangzhou

Yangzhou in Jiangsu Province on the lower reaches of the Yangtze inaugurated three special tours in May: **River Cruise**, tracing the steps of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty, a circuit of five kilometres and twenty-four scenic spots including splendid gardens; **Cruise of the Grand Canal**, with its numerous historic sites along the oldest canal in the world; and **Islamic Culture Tour**. Yangzhou was the first city in China to have relations with Islam. Visits to tombs, mosques and other sites are part of the tour which was designed following the suggestions of five Persian Gulf countries.

Jiangxi Tourism Programmes for 1991

- First Commercial and Tourist Commodity Fair (30 May-5 June)
- First International Festival of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Zhangshu, capital of Chinese herbalism (10-16 June)
- Jinggangshan Tourist and Commercial Week (mid-July)
- International Seminar on Agricultural Archaeology in Nanchang, Lushan, Jingdezhen and Yingtan (20-30 August)
- 1991 Lushan International Glide Exhibition (5-15 September)
- Second Mount Longhu Cultural Week in Yingtan (3-9 October)
- Second International Jingdezhen Porcelain Festival (11-14 October)
- Treasured Bird Safari Month on Lake Poyang (16 December, 1991-15 January, 1992)
- First Plum Blossom Festival in Meiling Scenic Area, Dayu County (end of 1991 to beginning of 1992)

More Hotlines for Complaints

In order to improve the quality of service in tourism in the country, China National Tourism Administration has established telephone lines in 17 provinces and cities (including those published in our issue No. 125) for foreign tourists to use to make complaints. Both Chinese and English helpers are available.

Yunnan	(0871)	35412
Sichuan	(028)	28825
Jiangxi	(0791)	224983
Henan	(0371)	552484
Shandong	(0531)	43423
Hebei	(0311)	614239
Heilongjiang	(0451)	341441-331
Jilin	(0431)	809246
Beijing	(01)	5130828
Shanghai	(021)	4390630
Tianjin	(022)	318814
Jiangsu	(025)	301221
Zhejiang	(0571)	556631
Guangdong	(020)	677422
Shaanxi	(029)	711480
Gansu	(0931)	26860
Guilin	(0773)	226533

Nadam Fair in Inner Mongolia

The Nadam Fair will take place from 14 to 18 July in Hailar, Hulun Buir League in Inner Mongolia. The fair is a grand national festival of the Mongols from Inner Mongolia. Wrestling, barbecues, horseracing; travelling the route of Genghis Khan and one day in a Mongolian yurt are just some of the planned events.

Other northern minority peoples will also be present at the fair to display their culture and costumes. This year, merchants and traders from Japan, the United States, South Korea, Canada, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Macau and USSR have been invited to participate in the economic and commercial fair.

First International Pearl Festival

The first one-week International Pearl Festival will be held in the city of Beihai in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from 18 October 1991. These pearls from the south are solid, brilliant and large. The programme for the festival: cultural and artistic spectacles, painting and calligraphy exhibition, athletic meets, Import-Export Fair and a presentation on pearl cultivation and collection.

Grape Festival of Turpan

The second Silk Road Turpan Grape Festival, to start on 20 August and run for one week in Turpan, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, will commemorate the 2,100-year-old trade route. The festival will feature a series of programmes including a grape feast, folk singing and dancing, a street for gourmets for tasting the famous Hami melons and other fruits, a foreign trade fair and tours of the local vineyards.

New Tourism Agency for Professionals

China Goodwill Travel Service is a new tourist agency that works with foreign travellers and tourist agencies. Their job is to organize itineraries and special-interest tours for foreign visitors; to receive official and unofficial visiting groups and theatrical troupes; to arrange tours in China for commercial visitors and to help arrange business contacts in the field of commercial investment, trade, construction, labour export, education, science and technology, and provide consultation services; to organize professional trips and meet the everyday demands of visitors to conferences, seminars and exhibitions. The headquarters of the China Goodwill Travel Service is: 1 Floor, Building No. 2, Friendship Hotel, No. 3 Baishiqiao Road, Haidian District, Beijing, China.

Tourism Day in Shandong

On September 27, 1991, Shandong Province will celebrate 1991 International Tourism Day. The annual observance has been sponsored by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) since 1979 to help promote and develop international tourism as well as to promote cultural and trade exchanges among nations.

China, a member of WTO, has held four other such celebrations, two in Beijing and Shanghai and two in Shaanxi and Fujian Provinces in the last five years.

The venue for this year's celebration will be Jinan, capital of Shandong. There will be a martial arts demonstration, the first China tourism painting exhibition, a calligraphy competition and a tourism commodities fair.

China Airlines

China Eastern Airlines, Anhui Branch, is now flying from Hefei to more than thirty other Chinese cities including Shanghai, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Huangshan, Chengdu, Nanjing, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, Xi'an, Qingdao, Dalian and Taiyuan. The airline also offers three scheduled flights a week to Hong Kong as well as general aviation flights to other cities.

On 8 June, 1991, **China Southern Airlines** launched its inaugural Guangzhou to Jakarta flight, with two flights weekly thereafter. Every Wednesday and Saturday at 16:20 hours, a flight departs from Guangzhou, arriving less than three hours later in Jakarta, Indonesia. Flights leaving Jakarta departs for Guangzhou every Thursday and Sunday at 08:00 hours. Passengers on all flights fly aboard Boeing-757's.

Also in June, **Air China** opened an air service between Beijing and Jakarta with two flights a week, stopping over Xiamen in Fujian Province.

Festivals in Tianjin

This year, the city of Tianjin will hold three festivals: **Chinese Rose Festival** at which tourists can admire this symbolic flower of Tianjin and enjoy other activities such as kite-flying, martial arts demonstrations and Dragon Boat races (26 May-9 June); **Chestnut Festival** — a combination of trade, tourism and local customs to be held in Jixian County with a *qigong* spectacle, a Great Wall tour and a visit with families harvesting the chestnuts (26 September-4 October); **Yangliuqing International Chinese New Year Painting Festival** which features exhibitions, discussions and a trade fair for this traditional Chinese painting (end of 1991 to beginning of 1992).

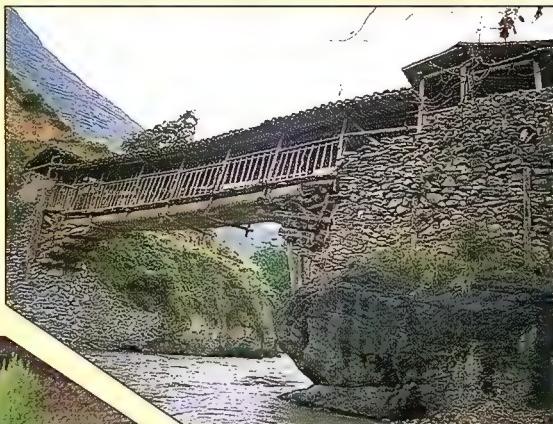
The Huangpu Tourism Festival in Shanghai

The Huangpu Tourism Festival in Shanghai will take place during an entire week from September 21 through September 27, 1991. The old quarter of Huangpu has become a great economic and commercial centre of Shanghai. Tourists can go shopping, play with the children, and eat various foods of sixteen foreign styles.

N E X T
I S S U E

Along the Route of the Long March (II)

Part II of our series along the route of the Long March takes us into areas rich in minority cultures where we observe a wide range of customs, houses, festivals, costumes, life-styles, religious observances and even a wedding. Lofty mountains, roaring rivers, lush valleys dotted with farms and the vast loess plateau form the many backdrops for this adventure.



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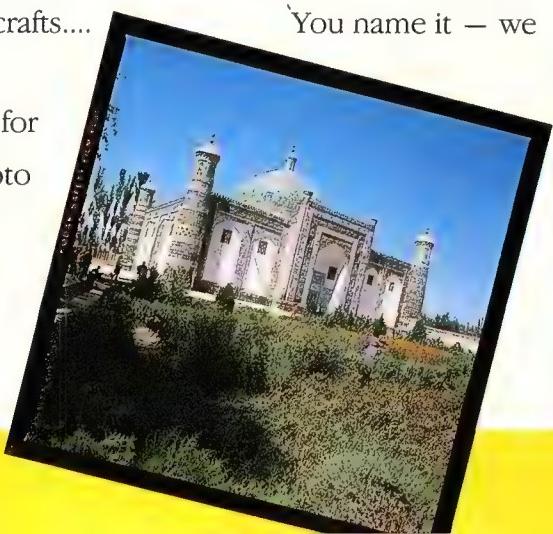
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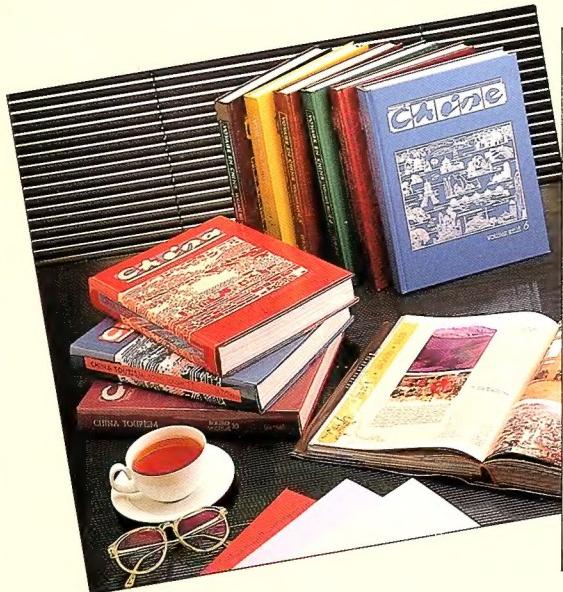
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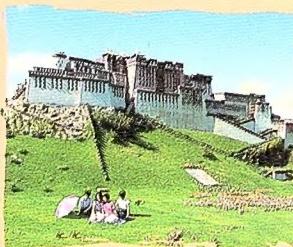
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